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FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Cold, wet and windy

(IR45p) 40p

THE TABLOID **Best CDs**



THE TABLOID Off the piste, onto



COMMENT Polly Toynbee: why the BBC should stand up for US PAGE 19

Sorry (but I still think I'm right



Photomontage: Jonathan Anstey

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday apologised for any "offence or distress" used by his suggestion that gun

club members were no more dangerous than Duke did not apologise

holding the views that he does, and several public polls ppeared to show that there is conderable support for his standpoint. The controversial comments, which

sparked a torrent of protest from MPs and anti-gun campaigners, were contained in a radio interview broadcast last night. In the interview, the Duke said: "There's no evidence that people who use weapons for sport are any more dangerous than people who use golf clubs or tennis racquets or cricket bats."

He added: "If a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which he could do very easily, I mean are you going to ban cricket bats?"

Prince Philip, who yesterday visited Ely cathedral, told BBC radio interviewer Rob Bonnet he understood the depth of public sympathy for the Dun-cent of those who called in agreed with

ban, but added: "I'm not sure that the reaction is ... the most rational."

Yesterday morning Buckingham Palace took the unusual step of issuing an apology after anti-gun cam-paigners claimed they were "sickened" and MPs across Westminster accused the the Duke of "blundering" into sensitive political debates.

"His personal views were very much focused in the area of how difficult it is to apply the law sensibly in these dif-ficult situations," said a spokesman. "Prince Philip made absolutely clear in the interview his horror at the Dunblane incident and his sympathy for the bereaved." But it was noticeable, however, that the Duke did not actually retract his views

His comments about handguns won

Out of touch, Paul Vallely.

Analysis, page 18 support in a number of public polis.

Of almost 10,000 GMTV viewers who phoned the programme's telephone poll hotline yesterday morning, 75 per cent said the Prince was right.

In a later BBC Radio 5 poll, 68 per

the Duke's comments that a complete ban on handguns was an "over-reac-tion" to Dunblane, while 32 per cent disagreed. A total of 2,784 people supported his views, while 1,304 did not. Those figures indicated a shift in public opinion since last October when an NOP poll found 72 per cent supported a ban.

A survey of 150 backbenchers published yesterday by the Harris Research Centre found almost half of all Tory backbenchers were opposed

to any change in handgun laws.
That contrasted sharply with Labour MPs - 91 per cent of whom wanted a complete ban, 4 per cent of whom favoured the ban on weapons over .22 and 3 per cent of whom want-ed no change in the law at all. Overall, 45 per cent of MPs of all parties wanted a total han, 24 per cent a ban on over .22s and 26 per cent wanted to leave the law unchanged.

Eileen Harrild, the gym teacher who was the first to be shot by Thomas Hamilton, described the Duke's remarks as "very insensitive, crass and offensive

"I am glad he has apologised but I would like him to take back what he has said and would like to think he has thought more deeply and come to a different conclusion about handguns. We are not talking about shotguns or



"I would like him to retract what he said and come out and say he would be in fayour of

Mrs Harrild still has to undergo further surgery for the wounds she suf-fered on her arm. "I think some people forget there are people who were injured in the gym strug-gling to come to terms with their injuries. There are people who have to live with the conse

quences of that day." She said if Hamilton had been armed with a cricket bat instead of handguns, the adults in the gym would have had a better chance of deflect-

Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, said yesterday in Beverley, east Yorkshire: "The Duke of Edinburgh's problem is that he was born with a silver foot

Ministers reject advice

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

A Europe-wide ban on the use of spinal cord and spleen from sheep and goats in the human food chain, proposed by scientific advisers, has been rejected by European agriculture ministers.

The extended ban on the waste from sheep and goats was put to ministers by the European Commission under a special high-speed emergency procedure, on advice from Scientific Veterinary Committee.

A report from the all-party Commons European Legisladay: "The Commission argues that because it may be possible for sheep to be infected by

disease clinically indistinguishable from scrapie, action should be taken to prohibit tissues which are likely to contain the BSE agent to enter any food

chain (human or animal)." The Government admitted in March that a number of Britons had died from a new form of the fatal Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) apparently due to exposure to BSE - almost certainly by eating infected food. So far

15 cases have been recorded. Although scrapic has existed World Health Organisation experts and the European Union's ently without causing CJD in people, scientists have been increasingly worried that BSE is a more dangerous form of the disease, and that if it spread to sheep then they could, in turn.



Douglas Hogg: Euro plans go further than UK law

duced measures to remove cattle brains and spines from the ture Minister, told the Commons committee that the European proposal went beyond current UK legislation, and would require "the removal of spinal cord from sheep and goats over 12 months ... and of spleen from all sheep and goats. It would thus necessitate changes in the way these ani-

mals are handled at slaughter

and also in trading practices." The Commons committee then added: "Although the recovery of mechanically-recovered meat from cattle has already been prohibited in the UK, the proposal, if adopted, would prevent plants currently producing mechanically-recovered meat from the vertebral columns of sheep and goats from continuing

Mr Hogg banned the use of sheep and goat heads in the production of food for human consumption on 15 September, but the vertebral columns of sheep and goats are used in the production of "mechanically-recovered meat". This is blasted off the bones of carcasses, and is widely used in cheap burgers,

sausages, pasties, pies and soups. The defeat in Brussels might have been expected, because only the UK, France, Ireland, Portugal and the Netherlands -five out of the EU's 15 members - impose curbs on the use of "specified risk materials", like the head and spinal cord, from higher-risk cattle.

sion proposal. It is not known how the UK cast its vote.

cil considered, but failed to agree on, a proposal banning the agree on, a proposal banning the use of specified risk materials in the manufacture of animal feed

and food-stuffs," he said. He did not reveal that ministers had been considering a ban on the use of sheep and goat spinal cord and spicen for human "food-stuffs"

The commission has been asked to make "further pro-posals in this area" after taking

further advice from the EU Scientific Veterinary Committee. The Ministry of Agriculture's latest progress report on BSE said that the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Com-mittee had urged ministers to consider the possibility of BSE in sheep, and "consider re-

a lony feared to have brought bomb-making equipment to the city. Police urged people to be on their guard against Christmas bombing.

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The Broadsheet

Siege goes on President Alberto Fujimori was Business & City20-22 desperately trying to find a solution to the siege in the Japan-ese ambassador's residence in Foreign News 10-14 Lima as 490 hostages entered their third night of capture by left-wing guerrillas. Page 10 Leading Articles 17 The Chancellor, Kenneth

Obituaries16 Clarke, defeated the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, in a last attempt to change the Sport25-28 Government's wait and see pol-The Tabloid icy on the single European cur-

Bomb lorry sought Police were scouring London for

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moving the brains from all food chain in 1989. But this was Mr Hogg told the Commons with this practice." Santa's infect people. The brains, spinal cords and In the event agriculture minsheep and goats over six months in a written reply on Wednesday not introduced for sheep or coats. isters decided in Brussels on night that the commission plan Tuesday to reject the Commishad been rejected. "The coun-BSE [Bovine Spongiform En- spleen are the most infective tis- goats. of age at slaughter." That procephalopathy], producing a sues. The Government introposal was enacted in September.

Railtrack rebuked Net wedlock ends for underspending in web of intrigue

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

buked by the Rail Regulator, so by the Regulator and earli-John Swift, for failing to spend £3.33m it has been given by the the first six months of this fi-Government for investment on Britain's crumbling railways.

Mr Swift said, in a letter to the anti-privatisation group. Save Our Railways, that Railtrack's "current level of underspend is wholly unacceptable to me and I expect prompt action to remedy this". He is demanding that Railtrack sets out Railtrack has broken the Regits investment programme to "show clearly and unequivocally whether or not Railtrack is delivering [its] investment programme

Railtrack's underspend in its first two and a half years of existence amounts to 25 per cent of the amount it should have in-



prove the rail network. Railtrack has consistently failed to spend the amount it is required to do er this month it revealed that in nancial year it only spent £193m compared with the £259m it had promised. Yet, profits jumped from £111m in the six months to 1 October 1995 to £145m in

the same period this year. Save our Railways said the company put profits before investment. "For two years, ulator's rules on how much money should be spent on rail maintenance. Now Railtrack will have to increase spending radically on the rail network or risk the Regulator taking action," said Jonathan Bray, co-

ordinator of the campaign. According to an industry source, Railtrack's capacity to invest has been inhibited by the fact that it has had three reorganisations since its creation in April 1994 and earlier this week

announced yet another one. The specire of underinvestment by a privatised Railtrack was raised by opponents of the our spending requirements."

suppliers to develop to match and other people pause," he our spending requirements."

vested to maintain and im- sale throughout the privatisation process but ministers said that safeguards were in place.

However, Mr Swift told The Independent last night that the role of a regulator "was not only to wield statutory powers but to carry on a regular dialogue with Railtrack". In fact, Mr Swift's powers are circumscribed. Railtrack has a sevenyear contract - negotiated with Mr Swift - which determines the level of its income from train operators and that cannot be changed until 2001.

Mr Swift's most serious sanction would be to refer Railtrack to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission but he is only likely to do this if it continued to fail to invest over a long period.

A spokesman for Railtrack said the company had spent £100m more in the first six month of this financial year than in 1995, but he accepted that targets had not been met. "We come from a culture where it has been difficult to spend huge sums of money because of the annual Treasury restrictions. There is also the need for our

Andrew Brown Religious Affairs Correspondent

Margaret Anne Hunter had been married for four months to a man she had met over the Internet before she noticed he was a woman.

The crucial clue that alerted the West Virginian woman that all was not as she had supposed with her husband, came when "his" mother rang and asked to speak to "Holly Anne" and not to the Thorne Wesley Jameson Groves she thought she had married.

Now she is suing her spouse for \$575,000 in West Virginia, where the couple were married last year. As well as the fraud she charges him with, she also wants compensation for all the money she spent on food, transportation and telephone calls

during the relationship. According to her lawyer, Seth Guggenheim, Ms Hunter had every reason to be deceived. "Holly had such credible and detailed explanations, excuses, and personal history. There was nothing that gave my client



that he was suffering from Aids, and that the heavy bandages, which covered his chest at all times when he undressed, were to beal wounds he had sustained in a car crash, rather than to conceal his breasts. She

believed him.

The couple met electronically in the autumn of 1995. It is common for men to pretend to be women on the Internet for reasons ranging from curiosity to obscure sexual gratifica-

women to pretend to be men, at least in some areas of the Net, in order to avoid ceaseless propositioning. However, this is the first recorded case in which such pretence has been carried through to the point of marriage. By December last year, they

had spent two nights together in a hotel room. It is not clear what transpired, but afterwards Ms Groves proposed marriage, and Ms Hunter, her suit claims, agreed "out of com-passion and love" They were married last win-

ter in a hotel in front of 60 relatives of bride. No one from the purported groom's family attended the wedding; and though Ms Groves claimed to have Aids, "he" never saw any doctors for the condition. Contacted by a news agency, Ms Groves' mother, who had unwittingly exposed her daughter's identity, refused to comment.

Ms Hunter blamed the whole thing on the Internet, which she no longer uses. "Computer users need to be increasingly careful with whom they speak,"

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Bad blood fails to deter royal passion

Colin Brown

fore the election.

March or 10 April.

ing a single currency.

of the next Parliament.

Chief Political Correspondent

The Chancellor, Kenneth

Clarke, vesterday defeated

Michael Howard, the Home

Secretary, in a last-ditch attempt

to change the Government's

'wait-and-see" policy over the

single European currency be-

to its existing policy on the sin-

gle currency at a meeting chair-

ed by John Major to review the

Tories' strategy for the election.

now expected to be on 20

election, in spite of plans by more than 100 Tory MPs to fight

on personal manifestos, reject-

was seen by Euro-sceptic Tory

MPs as a final defeat for their campaign to force the Chan-

cellor to rule out entry into the single currency for the lifetime

in the New Year with a further

report setting out the basis on

which the Government will

judge the convergence criteria

for the single currency. That

could enable Mr Howard and

other Euro-sceptic ministers to

rally in the New Year, but the

prospects for a policy change

vere discounted at Westminster.

"As far as the Cabinet is con-

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Mr Clarke agreed to return

The setback for Mr Howard

The decision means it is highly unlikely that any change in the policy will be made before the

The Cabinet decided to stick

The Duke of Edinburgh has always found it easy to reconcile his love of blood sports with his position as president of the conservation charity, the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

As apparently, has the charity itself. "Anything that he does in his private capacity is beyond the sphere of our relationship with him," said a spokesman, Javier Arreaza, from the headquarters in Switzerland vesterday.

Anything? "His relationship

Howard

forced to

toe line

on euro

Prince reconciles longstanding enthusiasm with role for nature charity

with us has been very good for bits, bares, wild ducks, snipe, conservation. We cannot really begin to hypothesise."

Not that much hypothesis is necessary. Shooting is a long-established favourite pastime of the Royal Family and Prince Philip's total "bag" over the past 30 years stretches over continents, species and runs into mind-boggling numbers.

Figures compiled from press reports by the anti-bloodsports lobby suggest that in Britain alone he has shot stag, roe, rab-

tillo does not say much these

days," said one former minister.

John Redwood, the champi-

on of the Tory right, yesterday

ries of splits or rows."

criteria at the right time."

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PAGEONE

woodcock, teal, pigeons and partridges and pheasant numbering at least 30,000.

Prince Philip especially enjoys shooting wild boar on the es-tates of friends in Germany. On one obcasion he and Prince Charles are said to have killed 50 wild boar in a single day.

He frequently invites sporting friends to the Royal Family's 20,000-acre Norfolk estate at Sandringham. In 1993, out shooting for up to four days a -a type of mountain sheep.

stay, he hit his target of 10,000 pheasants. His shooting parties are estimated to have killed about 150,000 pheasants over the last two decades.

The Prince rarely listens to criticisms of his passion for shooting. In 1961, despite protests from British and Indian politicians, Philip went ahead with an Indian tiger shoot. On that trip he also killed a crocodile and six urials

Police question fiancée

of road rage victim

pressure and given up big-game hunting, Prince Philip continues to defend his love of blood sports and has frequently aimed that he is culling and not killing the animals.

But while the Royal Family is prepared to consider change in many areas, its enthusiasm for blood sports remains as much a part of royal life as corgis, speeches and divorce.

The Queen often accompanies the Duke on pheasant

shoots. Charles and his sister, the Princess Royal, have organised competitions in which they lead rival shooting parties.

And it seems the Royal passion will not dim with a new generation. Prince William is said to prefer shooting to any other sport, while Prince Andrew took Beatrice on a shoot when

In October the Duke provoked an outcry by declaring shooting "an intelligent leisure activity" for children. He was backing a new book teaching novices about gun handling.

E. coli claims deaths

of dead to 15.

It brings to eight the number of pensioners who have died af-ter being infected with the bug at a church lunch in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, a month ago. The outbreak is now the world's second worst, coming after an epidemic in Canada in 1985 which killed 19 people. Health officials insisted the

man, was not named.

The Scottish E. coli outbreal claimed two more victims yesterday, taking the total number

outbreak was diminishing in spite of announcing that tests had led to the confirmation of another 15 cases of infection The total number of suspected cases across central Scotland now stands at 404, of which 250 have been confirmed.

ence Laboratory in Aberdeen.'

was named as Sarah Cameron. latest victims, a 78-year-old

Shortly after the deaths were

The figure of 404 was un-changed from the day before, according to health board officials. "The increase of 15 cases does not mean there is a fresh outbreak," one official said. "It simply means test results have come through from the Refer-

The two latest victims died on Wednesday night at Monklands District General Hospital. One 78, from Wishaw, whose family confirmed that she had been among a group of pensioners who attended a lunch at Wishaw Old Parish Church on 17 November, where allegedly contaminated pies made by John M Barr & Son were served. The second of the two

announced, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, criticised the level of in Scotland. "The total Scottish Office funding in E.coli 0157 over a six-year period has been £500,000," he said. "That is half of one week's share of the

two new

watch trawlers

Trawlers are to be electronically tagged to curb illegal catches and halt the chronic depletion of fish stocks, EU ministers agreed last night. From June 1998 spy-in-

Satellite will

Lobbyist's

companies to

be wound up

Companies run by Ian Greer,

the lobbyist at the centre of

the Neil Hamilton cash-for-

Ian Greer Associates was

questions affair are being

one of the largest lobbying groups and Mr Greer

boasted of being the best-connected lobbyist in the

Tory party. Its clients have included British Airways, British Gas, Carlton TV,

partners, Pall Mall, Thames

However, when the libel

withdrew, many of his clients left. A creditors' meeting will be held on 7 January.

Water and Philip Mouris.

case brought by Mr Green against the Guardian collapsed in October because Mr Greer and Mr Hamilton

Peter Carter Ruck and

wound up.

the-sky satellite monitoring will be compalsory for boats over 24 metres fishing on the high seas and industrial trawlers. The tracking devices are deeply unpopular with fishermen but Britain backed the plan in the interests of conservation. Spain, whose fleet is most often accused of illegal fishing, opposed it but was out-voted. Officials sought big quota cuts to protect stocks. Katherine

Lottery £11m goes pop

Britain's first pop music centre has been given £11m of Arts Council lottery, the fourth largest award for a project outside London. It will be built in Sheffield and

open by 1998.

A model of the futuristic building was unveiled by Russell Senior and Nick Banks of Pulp in a Sheffield nightclub. At least 400,000 visitors a year are expected.

Minister joins the exodus

The trade minister Anthony Neison joined other bright middle-rank ministers, including Stephen Norris, Richard Needham, and Tim Eggar, who have decided to stand down from Parliament at the next election.

A former merchant banker, he has been MP for the safe seat of Chichester since 1974, and his departure will start another selection stampede by those MPs who have been displaced by constituency boundary changes. Mr Nelson, 48, said

reasons, I have decided to turn my energies to something new". His wife, Caroline, a cordon bleu cook, is reported to have multiple sclerosis. Anthony Bevins

Health chiefs defy charter

A health authority is threatening to break the Patient's Charter by delaying sitting astride Earridge and operations for more than 18 months to make ends meet, a

The internal memorandum friend looked on. from Hammersmith Hospitals Trust says Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth health authority "do not want any of their non-clinically urgent patients to be admitted until further notice, even where this results in patients waiting in excess of 18 months".

Chris Smith, shadow health secretary, said: "Patients all over London and the Home Counties are now going to have to wait until next spring for treatment because of the madness of the internal market the Torics have imposed." Colin Brown

Al-Fayed will give money to pro-life party

Mohammed al-Fayed has promised to contribute. money to a new anti-abortion party which plans to field 50 candidates in the general

The Egyptian-born owner of Harrods, who has four children, is a strong believer in family values and has given money to at least one

Christian organisation.
The new Pro-Life Alliance Party, founded by Bruno Quintavalle, 25, wants to raise enough money and find enough candidates to carn a party political broadcast on television. It will put candidates up against high-profile figures who are prochoice, such as Virginia Bottomley, Sir Nicholas Lyell or Marjorie Mowlam, if they bave no pro-life opponent

standing in their seats.

A spokesman for Mr Payed said he did not know how much money he would give, but that he "would not argue with suggestions that it was a five-figure sum. Fran Abrams

Major has the last laugh

John Major is one of six candidates nominated for the BBC Radio 4 Today programme's News Personality of the Year, from which Tony Blair was excluded over claims of attempts to rig the poll. The winner will be announced on

Tax-case man is cleared

A businessman was cleared of corruptly providing a holiday for the Inland Revenue inspector Michael Allcock in return for tax

A judge at the Old Bailey ordered a jury to acquit David Shamoon, 66, of West Kensington, London.

The judge also ruled that two charges of corruption against Allcock, 47, of Colchester, Essex, were to be dropped but he still faces 11 other charges.

Care worker abused son

A former care assistant at a children's home in Northern Ireland was jailed for nine years for sexually abusing his eight-year-old son.

Originally, he had denied committing 15 acts of buggery, but after the boy gave evidence and was crossexamined via a video link-up with Londonderry Crown Court, the man changed his plea to guilty. The offences occurred at the man's flat in the Creggan area of Derry.

Ouija killer sent to Broadmoor

that "for family and personal A Devil worshipper who stabbed a 15-year-old boy to death after a Ouija board spelled out the word "kill" was ordered to be detained indefinitely in Broadmoor. Michael McCallum, 20,

turned his bedroom Walworth, south east London, into a shrine to the Devil where he lured Michael Earridge and his friend Stephen Curran, also 15, the

Old Bailey heard. plunging a foot-long combat knife 11 times into his chest leaked memorandum shows. and neck, while his horrified

Pension fund inquiry refused

The Government rejected a Labour demand for an independent inquiry into the "scandal" of the British Rail pension fund, from which a £500m surplus is being given to the new private companies. Viscount Goschen insisted in the Lords that there was "no scandal whatsoever" and there were "categoric protections" for pensioners.

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said the single currency preparations were causing unemployment across Europe and the criteria were being fudged. He called on the Cabinet to show unity: "It is most important that the Cabinet speaks with one voice, and that there are no sto-A senior Conservative source said: "They had a discussion about the election strategy and then remained in political session to discuss the Chancellor's paper and EMU. The Cabinet confirmed the present negotiate-and-decide strategy.

"It was agreed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would bring forward a paper explor-ing the basis on which the Government would judge those The meeting followed re-ports that Mr Howard had defeated the Chancellor when he won Cabinet backing for him to resent a paper to the Cabinet on the single currency criteria. Hopes were raised among the Euro-sceptics that the his critics would ambush Mr Clarke, who had made clear he would be against entry into the single currency if the convergence conditions were "fudged". Euro-sceptic Tory MPs said the French government's use of er its debts was evidence of the questioning the girlfriend of the alleged 'road cerned, it's all over now, said criteria being fudged. The Trearage' victim Lee Harvey. one leading Euro-sceptic. Mr sury said it would be after the Redditch police arrested Tracie Andrews, Howard failed to gain support election, in late 1997, before it 27, pictured, two weeks ago in connection around the Cabinet from oth-er Euro-sceptics. "Michael Por-Hamish McRae, page 19 with the death of her fiancé but had been unable to interview her in connection with

Mr Harvey, 25, died from multiple stab wounds on 1 December in an isolated country lane close to the couple's home in the Worcestershire village of Aivechurch.

Photograph: PA | National Lottery jackpot." IRA lorry alert raises fears of London bombing

Patricia Wynn Davies

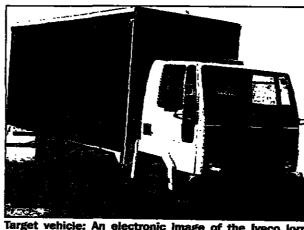
Police were scouring London vesterday for a lorry feared to have transported bomb-making equipment to the capital after Scotland Yard disclosed that 1RA terrorists have been using a vehicle yard in the city.

Commander John Grieve, branch, issued an appeal for information about the 7.5 tonne Ford Iveco lorry, which the IRA might have used to bring bomb components to the main

The appeal follows a search on Monday this week of a north-west London lorry yard, which Commander Grieve said had been "clearly used by the Provisional IRA."

The vehicle, white with blue curtain sides, probably had a 1986 or 1987 registration plate (C, D or E), has red bars under the platform and a red bumper, and bears the remnants of faded sign writing on the cab

Commissioner, Sir Paul Consible Christmas and New Year bombing campaign by the IRA. Sir Paul said his force re-



Target vehicle: An electronic image of the Iveco lorry which police believe is being used by the IRA

Ford lorry had been in the north London area earlier this suspecting owner. No explosives year. Scotland Yard issued a or firearms had been found at the vehicle.

Both Commander Grieve and the Metropolitan Police hand, it may be part of the terdon, urged people in London to be on their guard against a pos-

mained on a high state of alert for a full range of possible IRA strikes, including bombings and incendiary attacks on stores during Christmas and the January sales.

Commander Grieve said the

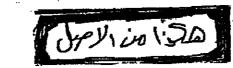
computer-generated image of We believe the lorry was used at some stage to transport bomb-making equipment, pos-sibly innocently." Commander Grieve said. "On the other trace this lorry. It is communities that defeat terrorism and this is a task everyone can help

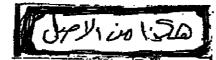
was carried out after informa- had seen the lorry, owned it, had tion from the public and with bought or hired it recently or the co-operation of its owners. seen it parked to ring the free Commander Grieve appealed for information from anyone who thought they had seen the lorry since February but said he hostile and environment as poswas particularly interested in its sible that we have the best

He said the lorry might have been hired or lent out by an unthe lorry yard, and there were no arrests. "We are appealing to members of the public to help us

us with," Commander Grieve He appealed to anyone who and confidential Anti-Terrorist Branch hotline on 0800 789321.

"It is by making London as movements in June and July. chance of success," Sir Paul said.





Frankincense, myrrh and compromise; the path to a happy Christmas for schools



When the pupils are of many faiths, celebrating religious festivals means keeping a careful balance

Lucy Ward Education correspondent

In primary school halls up and down the country. Mary and Joseph will find shelter at the inn. In one Bradford school, as in many others in Britain's multi-ethnic cities, the stars of this year's nativity play will be

Lilycroft First School, where all but two of the 400 pupils are Muslim, is typical in adapting the celebrations of the Christian calendar to suit its young population. "Away in a Mange and other carols will be sung. complete with references to the birth of Jesus, but references to the Christ child as the Son of God will be omitted to avoid conflict with Islamic beliefs.

Similar compromises have been worked out by many schools with a mix of faiths to prevent the kind of incident which marred a Birmingham secondary school's rehearsal.

Washwood Heath Secondary. which is 60 per cent Asian, yesterday launched an internal investigation after Israr Khan, a thaths teacher, least from his seat and shouted to pupils watching the rehearsal "Who is date in the Christian calendar".



Nativity scene: Mary, Joseph and Jesus will be portrayed in many mixed-faith schools. Top left, Israr Khan, who disrupted a school rehearsal Main photograph: Barry Lewis/Network

your God?", prompting some to reply "Allah" and boo the mainwhite choir.

Birmingham education authority said that Mr Khan stayed at home yesterday "by mutual consent", but the carol concert on Wednesday went ahead as planned. The city council yesterday insisted that the incident should not be allowed to detract from Christmas celebrations in Birmingham's 500 schools where "pupils of all faiths are celebrating the most important

But the teacher's outburst rekindled the debate over schools' attempts to mark religious festivities, with traditionalists of both Islamic and Christian faiths claiming that pupils should not be forced to take part in celebrations of be-

liefs they did not share. Professor Robert Jackson, director of the religions and education research unit at Warwick University, believes such incidents are likely to be rare as schools grow increasingly senancing a respect for the faiths of pupils and parents with a desire to promote understanding of other cultures.

"Many would treat these issues very, very carefully indeed. That is not to say they would decide not to touch them at all, but it would be a process of conversation with the parentteacher association, parent governors and others in order to win the confidence of people.

Schools decide their own policy on celebrating religious sitive to the best means of bal-

lines and requirements covering religious education and collective worship. Much depends on the contribution of the local authority in offering advice,

ual heads and teachers. Religious education specialist Professor John Hull, of Birmingham University, sug-gests that most schools find their own way through the faith minefield with considerable success. The mistake made by many traditionalist commenta-

tors, he believes, is to confuse

and the enthusiasm of individ-

cred worship practised in a church, mosque or synagogue.

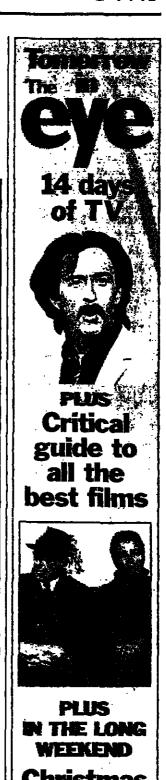
"In schools, pupils, parents and teachers are collected together acknowledging their differences. They never have a service that purports to represent the worship of all these people," he said.

The key for schools aiming to involve all children is to keep the emphasis on education, not worship. The law requires that religious teaching must not m-

the collective worship schools doctrinate, allowing schools to must offer with the kind of safrom Passover and Eid to Diwali and Ramadan without crossing the line into active celebration.

David Parker, head of Lilycroft First School, has consulted widely with parents over religious education and worship. "Once parents realised we were not threatening to subvert anything, they were very supportive. If they trust that you are not undermining their faith then the

problems don't exist." Leading article, page 17





Jealousy plunges Gulf veterans into civil war

Just when Britain's Gulf War veterans have the Ministry of Defence on the run, they are being laid low by a new enemy. A noxious cloud of suspicion, jealousy and mistrust has descended on the soldiers, draw-

ing them into battle, this time to fight with each other. The in-fighting has led to a succession of top-level sackings and resignations, with members of the two Gulf veterans' associations at loggerheads, accusing each other of incompetence

and posching members. "For us to be diverting our energies into all this internal wrangling cannot be good," said one vet. "It's just what the MoD want."

Much of the jealousy surrounds one family, which has established itself at the hub of the veterans' campaign for treatment and compensation.

Ian Hill, the chairman of the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association (NGV-FA), served in the war for under a week but was exposed to a mixture of drugs designed to protect him from Iraqi chemical attack. He became so ill that he had to be flown home.

He has become the most high-profile of Britain's Gulf veterans, campaigning tirelessly, but he is now seriously unwell. He has repeatedly warned that he has only months

Hill uses the title "Major-Chevalier", which he acquired from the Polish order of St Stanislaus, and his wife Carole, a nurse, uses the title of Dame from the same source.

Next month, Major Hill is due to sail to America to become the first British veteran to be treated in a programme sponsored by the Royal British Legion and other military char-

Dame Carole is a member of the NGVFA executive committee, although she did not serve in the Gulf. Neither did her daughter Debbie and Ian's brother David, who are also on the committee which meets at the Hills' family home.

In recent weeks, the NGV-FA committee has fired its sacked from the NGVFA vice-chairman and treasurer



Divided front: Ian Hill, a Gulf War veteran and his wife Carole, at their home in Lymm Photograph: Martin Rickett

dence. Several regional helpers have also been dispensed with and a succession of regional coordinators have resigned in

Ben Gunn, the sacked treasurer, said: They said I was not Tony Flint, an NGVFA com-

following votes of no-confi- charitable arm of the organisation. Phil Sherwood, 37, a regional co-ordinator, said be felt "disgusted" by the sackings. "They were two people that I felt I could trust," he said.

Others took a contrary view. doing my job as treasurer. The mittee member who supported

It has turned into a family circus. I was vice-chairman - supposedly number two - but I was kept in the dark

didn't like it." Andy Hagan was sacked as NGVFA vice-chairman after speaking out in support of Mr Gunn. He said: "It's incredible. It has turned into a family circus. I was vice-chairman and supposedly number two but I was kept in the dark." Both men now expect to be

problem was that I was and they Gunn's sacking, said the treasurer was over-zealous. "He was querying stuff that there was no

need to query."
Major Hill, who said he was not interested in politics, only helping the veterans, accused Mr Gunn of being involved in a "power-struggle" to move the association from its Manchester base to his home of Not-Benevolent Association, the

is the relationship between the NGVFA and the Newcastlebased Gulf Veterans' Association (GVA) which was set up a year earlier in 1993.

In recent weeks nearly 400 GVA members have received letters at home from Eddie Blench, a former GVA chairman who is now a member of the NGVFA, asking them to swap allegiance.

Larry Cammock, 58, the treasurer of the GVA, said: "I am extremely disappointed by it. At the end of the day we are all after the same cause; to find out what's wrong with our lads and how to treat it." He admitted that the GVA had problems in staffing its office. This week, Carole Hill said

the GVA no longer existed and that she was seeking to have its helpline diverted to the NGVFA. "We have taken over the GVA completely now," she

Some 1,200 Gulf War veterans are pursuing legal cases against the MoD seeking compensation for the illnesses they suffered after returning from the conflict

Soldiers were left exhausted and depressed, often with breathing difficulties. Some deeloped bowel and liver problems and scores have committed suicide. Some claim to have had babies born with physical abnormalities.

Lawyers acting for the sick veterans say their illnesses were caused by a combination of the chemicals they were exposed to - pesticides, tablets and inoculations against chemical warfare - and leakage from Iraqi chemical weapons dumps. Further problems were caused by the stress of fighting.
Richie Turnbull, who re-

signed as a NGVFA regional co-ordinator because of the in-fighting but still works with vets in North Wales and Merseyside, said the feuding was down to Gulf War illness

"People are losing their homes, they are losing their jobs and they are trying to get their war pensions," he said. "The pressure is showing in their relationships both personal and professional."

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University of Cambridge	6.49	98.:
London School of Economics	6.28	97.1
Imperial College, London	5,99	90.1
University College London UMIST	5.83 5.61	91.
University of Bath University of Warwick	5.56	86.1 89.1
Lancaster University	5.51 5.5	98.4 91.6
University of York University of Essex	5.47 5.45	91.3 89.2
University of Edinburgh	5.35	94.4
University of Sussex	5.35	87.8
University of Bristol University of St Andrews	5.34 5.23	86.0 87.5
University of Wales, Cardiff	5.22	86.3
University of Durham	5.22	88.2
University of Sheffield	5.21	85.0
Cranfield University	5.2	46.5
University of Southampton	5.2	83.1
Royal Holloway, London	5.2	83.1
School of African and Oriental Studies	5.19	88.5
King's College London	5.16	85.2
University of Manchester	5.12	91.3
University of Birmingham	5.10	86.4
University of Leeds	5.07	87.9
Goldsmiths College, London	5.04	81.1
University of East Anglia	4.97	88.2
University of Surrey	4.97	78.3
University of Nottingham	4.96	88.3
Loughborough University	4.92	81.9
Birkbeck College	4.87	92.8
University of Reading University of Glasgow	4.85 4.79	88.1 76.4
Aston University Heriot-Watt University	4.77 4.77	69.2 69.5
University of Liverpool University of Salford	4.75 4.75	82.0 67.8
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	4.72	86.7
University of Stirling University of Leicester Ouean Many and	4.7 4.68	76.3 89.6
Queen Mary and Westfield College	4.6	82.8
University of Dundee	4.59	76.4
University of Strathclyde	4.58	73.9
Open University University of Exeter	4.57 4.55	49.6 80.9
University of Wales, Swansea The Queen's University	4.54	73.8
of Belfast	4.51	73.7
University of Bradford	4.44	88.4
Keele University	4.34	88.6
University of Kent at Canterbury	4.33	82.4
University College of North Wales, Bangor	4.31	67.7
Brunel University	4.27	75.9
University of Aberdeen	4.21	91.5
University of Ulster	4.17	54.9
University of Hull	4.04	88.3
University of Wales, Aberystwyth	3.99	86.8
City University	3.92	63.7
Sheffield Hallam University	3.56	27.6
University of Wales, Lampeter	3.55	93.4
University of Westminster	3.31	29.3
Nottingham Trent University	3.22	30.9
University of Greenwich	3.2	26.6
University of Hertfordshire	3.16	· 27.7
University of Portsmouth	3.12	43.9
South Bank University	3.12	22.3
University of Plymouth	3.1	44.8
Napier University	3.08	17.0
University of Brighton	3.04	44.9
Oxford Brookes University University of West	2.96	48.1
of England, Bristol" Manchester Metropolitan	2.93	27.8
University	2.87	34.4
University of Sunderland	2.86	29.2
Robert Gordon University	2.83	32.6
University of Glamorgan	2.77	17.5
Liverpool John Moores University	2.77	36.4
University of East London University of Northumbria	2.72	36.3
at Newcastle	2.69	26.0
University of North London	2.69	37.3
Middlesex University	2.68	43.1
De Montfort University	2.67	52.3
University of Central Lancashire	2.63	21.9
Glasgow Caledonian University	2.63	31.5
Leeds Metropolitan University Thames Valley University	2.63 2.63	22.7 10.0
University of Lincolnshire and Humberside	2.6	20.7
University of Huddersfield	2.53	44.5
Nongston University	2.53	33.3
Coveritry University University College of Wales, Meannest	2.48	34.2
of Wales, Newport Staffordshire University London Guildhall University	2.35 2.21 2.2	19.4 38.4
Condon Contanan University	2.19	36.0
University of Paisley	2.19	19.4
University of Derby	2.19	25.9
Anglia Polytechnic University	2.08	23.2
University of Abertay Dundee	1.99	35.5
Bournemouth University University of Central England	1.97	18.8
in Ermingham	1.97	34.4
University of Wolverhampton	1.79	27.3
University of Teesside University of Luton	1.74 1.72	27.3 32.1 28.0
		II

28.0 The university rankings are based on the average points scored

University of Luton

by each researcher entered for the exercise. The points score has been calculated from the scores awarded. to universities by the Higher Education Funding Council. There are

serior grades from 1 through 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 to 5*. The number of researchers scoring each grade has been of culatrid, added and divided by the total number of researchers

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The table also shows the percentage of university staff put forward by each university. The many specialised institutions and the colleges of higher i mication have been amitted.

Rankings open rift in Oxbridge

Judith Judd Education Editor

Oxford and Cambridge universities were yesterday locked in a dispute over which had come top in the most extensive university research rankings carried out in Britain.

Oxford was top of the list for the highest average score for each of its researchers in the exercise, but it entered a smaller proportion of dons.

The London School of Economics

produced its own league table to show that if Cambridge's decision to enter 98 per cent of dons were taken into account, it would come top. In the same table the London School of Economics was second and Oxford, which entered 91 per cent of its dons, third. The assessment of 50,000 academics'

research will be used to distribute £700m to university departments next year. Those with the lowest ratings will receive no money from the Higher Education Funding Council's research A spokeswoman for Cambridge

said they were pleased with the results:
"In many ways, we have done better than Oxford. It depends how you look at the figures. We have encouraged heads of department to put in as many people as possible."

But a spokeswoman for Oxford said: "We are quite happy about the way in which we put our entry together.
Our figures hold up pretty well. We are

standing of the university." Universities were allowed to choose what proportion of academics they en-tered for the exercise but those not included will not be eligible for funding. Some put prestige before funding.

Tomorrow's world: Postgraduates working on an argon ion laser in the Clarendon laboratories at Oxford University Photograph: John Lawrence

bridge and the LSE - submitted almost all their staff. very pleased the results of the exercise confirm the range and strength of Ox-ford's research and the international

The old universities dominated the top places, as they did when the last exercise was carried out four years ago. Among provincial universities, Bath and Warwick did best. But the new universities, which were polytechnics until four years ago, improved their performance, with an increase in the

Warwick, which came fourth in the number of departments reaching the LSE table, pointed out that only two other universities beside itself - Camnational excellence from 96 to 351. The new universities of Westminster, Portsmouth, Thames Valley, East London and Liverpool John Moores received top grades for some work. Sheffield Hallam had the highest

rating of the new universities. In traditional universities, the number of departments reaching standards of international excellence in at least some areas increased sharply.

Professor Brian Fender, the funding council's chief executive, said: "International excellence is not concentrated in tiny numbers of universities and colleges. The best universities have improved their international standing. Many other institutions have also performed im-pressively by identifying and building

on their strengths."

The Funding Council meets next month to decide how to distribute research funds. It already concentrates point in that direction."

most research money on a compara tively small number of universities. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of

State for Education, has suggested the concentration might increase.

But Professor Fender said the aim was for the country to fund the best possible research for the money: "If it turns out that we could fund that better by a more concentrated distribution than is the case at the moment then why not? But the evidence doesn't

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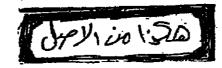
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Tory flagship's house sales ruled unlawful

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

The London Borough of Wandsworth acted unlawfully when it sold off council houses housing policy from 1980 until without taking into account its 1983. duties to the homeless, according to an auditors' report published last night.

The policy of offering vacant properties for sale rather than for rent was introduced in 1983 when Sir Paul Beresford, now

an environment minister, was leader of the council. Sir Paul joined the conneil in 1978, the year it started selling off some of its homes, and was chair of

Wandsworth's arrangement rejected claims that the counwas reputed to have formed the cil—which was held up as a flagbasis of the one adopted by ship for Tory-run local Westminster, whose former government-had introduced its leader, Dame Shirley Porter, policy in order to attract Conand eight other councillors were surcharged £31.8m by the dis- The council "misdirected itself

trict auditor. However, yester- in law" when it assumed that it was entitled to strike a balance day's report, although critical, stopped short of recommending between its desire to increase surcharges or high court action. home ownership and its duties The investigation by Rowland

to the homeless, the report says.
It should have considered the Little, a partner with the accountancy firm Binder Hamlyn, consequences of its policy for ople with medical conditions and for others in need of social housing, the report said. The report also criticised the council's failure to consider whether the properties would be mortgage-able or not. Many were in highservative voters into the area.

rise properties and buyers found them hard to sell on.

A council paper which declared the policy a success, published just after Sir Paul became an MP in 1992, was imbalanced and "fell far short of acceptable standards", the au-ditor found. As a result, members who voted to open up new sales areas were acting on inadequate information. Last night, Labour con-

demned Wandsworth and called

cil to reject its housing policies. Tony Belton, the Labour

group leader in Wandsworth who brought the policy to the auditor's attention, said it was "yet another example of Tory sleaze". And he added: "People have had enough of grubby Tory politics - especially those Wandsworth residents in severe medical need of rehousing.

for nine Conservative prospec-

who have links with the coun-

tive parliamentary candidates

those trapped in flats they bought from the Tories but which are now worth peanuts. those facing ever-scaring repair bills and those homeless

through no fault of their own." Sir Paul was in Italy on ministerial business last night but he asked his special adviser to point out that the auditor's report was based on legal advice. Wandsworth had had different advice, he said. In addition, he pointed out that no individual

cil was criticised.

The current council leader. Edward Lister, said the report set the record straight. Wandsworth had always acted reasonably and had paid proper regard to its legal powers and duties, he added. "The council's policy of encouraging home ownership has been a great success. It has helped to make Wandsworth estates attractive

Heseltine admits to false accusation

Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Heseltine has admitted making unfounded allegations against a civil servant in his evidence to a cross-party Com-

mons select committee. The Deputy Prime Minister admitted the mistake in a letter to the Commons select committee on public affairs, and asked the MPs to "disregard this

part of my evidence". The embarrassing retraction followed a sustained attack on civil service leakers by Mr Heseltine at a hearing of the committee in which he referred to the disclosure of an internal Treasury paper in the summer.

He did not identify the civil servant, but it was thought to be Helen Goodman, who applied to stand for the Labour seat of Barnsley East but withdrew. She is now on maternity leave and was cleared of any involvement in the leaking of the

Mr Heseltine wrote: "I mentioned in my replies to questions that I understood that a Labour candidate had leaked documents whilst a civil servant. On re-reading my papers I find that I had misread the original

Mr Heseltine's letter reinthat trade union officials speakvants are in practice supporters of the Labour Party. This must inevitably raise questions as to the degree of detachment they bring to their pronounce-

Leaders of the civil service unions, who protested to Sir Robin Butler, the head of the civil service, were outraged by the letter. "He has admitted he was wrong, but he has still not apologised," said one civil service leader.

The leaders of all the main civil service unions, representing top civil servants in Whiteforced his attack on the civil ser- hall, including ministerial press vice unions. "I find it depressing officers, held a press conference

Former helicopter chief turns his talents to design in the farmyard



The good life Cows on the Baynards Park estate at Cranleigh in Surrey lying on the water beds designed by Alan Bristow who says that his

Water beds add a little luxury to the winter cowshed

Louise Jury

A helicopter pioneer turned farmer, Alan Bristow, has brought a touch of the bordello to the cattle shed. His 450

cows are spending the winter on water beds designed by him. Mr Bristow, the former head of Bristow Helicopters, the world's biggest helicopter air-line, devised the strengthened rubber beds after deciding that the £50,000 he was spending each year on straw could be put to better use.

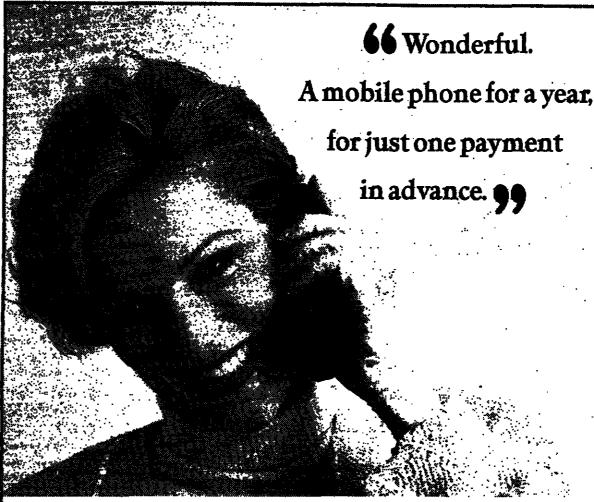
He claims that his system is more hygienic because it avoids the problem of bacteria growing in the straw. They are also more comfortable for the herd which normally face the winter hazard of knee injuries on straw-covered floors. By training the cows to lie down with their heads away from the pen entrance, automatic scoops can even whisk away any slurry they produce. When Mr Bristow unveiled

his latest invention at agricultural shows this year, he was inundated with orders. He has patented the design and licensed Dunlop in Holland to make the beds, which cost around £100 each, after they have been tested at his 2,000acre farm Cranleigh, Surrey, where he has 252 in use.

Speaking at his farm yester-day, Mr Bristow said: "Water beds have sleazy connotations of cheap bordellos and motels, but nothing could be further from the truth.

"It is designed to improve the health, welfare and comfort of our cows and improve the quality of the food ... It has increased milk production by about 6 per cent."

The idea won the Duke of Edinburgh's award at the European Dairy Farming Event at Stoneleigh last September. The award was for the invention that made the biggest contribution to the diary industry in 1996. "We won it against the big boys like ICI. You could have knocked me down with a feather," Mr Bristow said.



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Stadium plans raise a united storm on the moor in Newcastle

and Ian Burrell

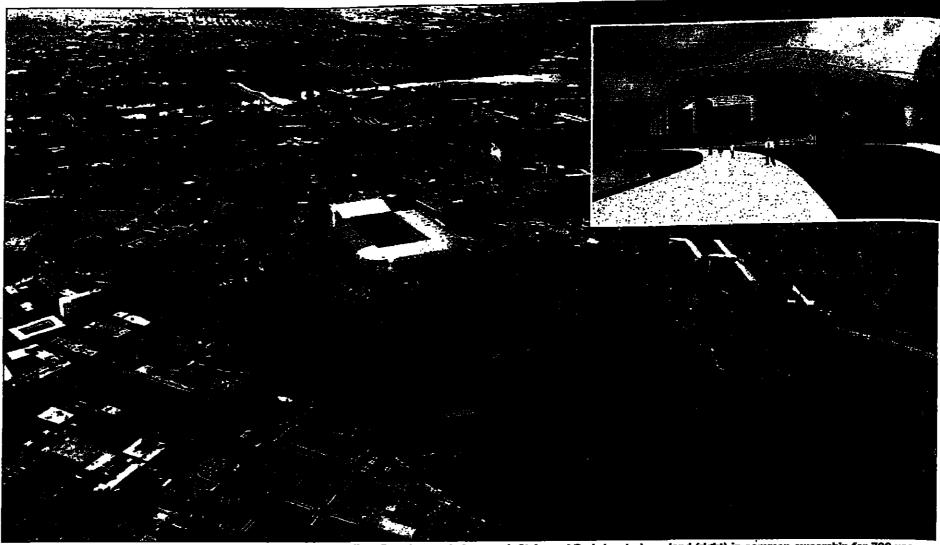
Newcastle United Football Club sparked uproar on Tyneside last night after unveiling a £65m plan to build a new "superstadium" on a historic swathe of land in the city's centre.

The club wants to build a new 55,000-seater stadium on Town Moor, which has been in common ownership for over 700 years. The move has caused a rift between local councillors and outraged local protesters who have fought to preserve the open space from development.

The proposal follows months

and City Freemen, who control the 1,300-acre moor. Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle who is turning the club into a continental-style sporting club with teams playing several different sports will be applying for planning permission for the stadium early in January and remain hopeful of getting coun-

City councillors were given a sneak preview of the new plans at a confidential briefing on Wednesday night and many emerged undecided. Outside the meeting, a pressure group calling themselves No Business on the Moor handed councillors an 18,000-signature petition



No business: Newcastle United propose a new 55,000-seater stadium (inset) near their ground, St James' Park (centre), on land (right) in common ownership for 700 years

Councillor John Shipley, leader of the Liberal Democrat opposition on Newcastle City Council called for a referendum of the city's taxpayers on

disappointed that the Labour group on the council had not thought it appropriate that the full council should debate the

tion and debate," he said.

should go ahead. He said he was disappointed that the Labour to the development control the would be calling on John disappointed that the Labour committee. Gummer, the Secretary of State committee. Gummer, the Secretary of State
"This is so important that it for the Environment, to call a ought to have wider consulta-tion and debate," he said.

public inquiry into whether the stadium plan should be al-

who represents the Moorside ward, said: "This is a very dramatic development and it is true that the club have taken steps to try and minimise any damage the development might have on the area.

"But at the end of the day it is not something I can support. The proposal put forward by the club still doesn't meet the needs of my constituents.

"The bottom line is it is going to involve a loss of open

space on Castle Leazes." Lucy Milton, of No Business on the Moor, said that the council and the football club

were operating hand in glove.
"They are by-passing the normal procedure of going from committee to committee. It is totally partisan and thoroughly unacceptable. I am sure it is not something that the national Labour party would approve of. The Town Moor is the heart

and lungs of the city." The moor has been in common ownership for 700 years and provides a green area for recuperating patients at the nearby Royal Victoria Infir-

fic management implications of crowds of 70,000 were "horrific" and that if the scheme was allowed it could set a national "If they get it here what city

centre park will be safe," she

Yesterday's announcement comes five months after Newcastle City Council took the un-

O'Brien, a Labour councillor for the Castle Leazes site amid growing fears the club was set to quit the city boundaries for a new home in nearby Gateshead

In a further twist to the saga it also emerged yesterday that four years ago, Newcastle United actually opposed plans by a development company to build a big sports and music arena on an adjacent site as that proposed for the new football

A letter to the City Council



Sir John Hall: Applying for planning permission

mary.

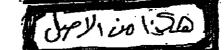
Ms Milton said that the trafThe Independent, contains obincident to the proposal on the jections to the proposal on the grounds that it would cause serious traffic problems.

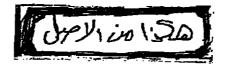
Russell Cushing, the club's general manager, wrote: "The siting of another large entertamment venue in such close proximity, with apparently little or no provision for the parking of additional vehicles. would result in major safety usual step of inviting the club management implications for to submit a planning application both parties."





LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS







Feeling the heat: Altnai Assylmuratova, prima ballerina with the Kirov Bailet, warming up before a performance of The Nutcracker at

Tories to cover millennium debt

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

In a last throw of the dice to rescue the £700m Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich in south-east London, the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heselincludes £200m from the tine, has agreed that the Gov-ernment will underwrite all its costs, making it into a public, rather than private project.

This unusual reversal of the Government's credo is an attempt to keep the plans on track in the face of refusals by Labour to guarantee any potential losses. It is also a recognition that although the private sector was to have contributed £150m in sponsorship, less than one-third of that has been guaranteed so far.

Under the plan the organisers, Millennium Central, would become a quango, rather than an independent entity as it is at present. However, the agreement of the Labour Party, which

is needed because of the likelihood that it will be in power when the event takes place, has still not been obtained. Jack The decision by Mr Heseltine Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, has refused to sanction the £700m budget, which

Millennium Commission. Earlier this week in Parliament Mr Cumingham said that the ultimate cost might be £1bn and wondered whether the scheme should go ahead "at any price or be allowed to preempt more and more Millennium Commission funds".

There is a suspicion that Labour would like to see the whole plan ditched in favour of smaller, regional exhibitions. One source involved in the plans said: "Mr Cunningham is not being clear. He keeps on saying the budget is excessive, but he refuses to say exactly how much should be spent on the project." Ac-cording to consultants to the or-since its events were so popular".

SAINSBURY'S HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES

ganisers, losses could be up to £427m, if there were building site overruns and a bad summer.

to "nationalise" the exhibition carries echoes of the Festival of Britain in 1951 when a similar move was made in the late Forties by the ruling Labour Party to ensure that the event would take place even if the Tories won the 1950 election. In the event, Labour just held power and by the time the Tories won later in 1951, the festival was so popular that they did

not attempt to curtail it.

According to Richard Weight, who is writing a book about the exhibitions of 1851, 1951 and 2000, concerns about overspending may be exaggerated. He says that criticism of overspending on the Festival of Britain was "so strong that they managed to keep to budget. The Arts Coun-

How mystical seven gives a nod to big ears

From the Seven Deadly Sins and the Seven Wonders of the World to Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and the Seven Dwarfs, the number seven has a significance denied to other, lesser (or greater) digits - and the human body is not exempt.

Scientists have discovered that male, human ears grow in seven-year cycles, reviving the ancient Greek belief that there are circaseptennial rhythms in human development.

The discovery follows the revelation last year that male huears in relation to their skull size.

Dr. Jos Verhulst of the Louis Bolk Institute in the The versiteit Leuven in Belgium, analysed ear length values from the age of 30 to 83 and found that ear-growth velocity peaked

seven-year rhythm in human development is old, dating back at least to ancient Greece. Reports on circaseptennial phenomena are, however, scarce in recent published work.

"Seven-year periodicity re-mains comparatively unknown, perhaps because it is not looked for by many researchers. This may be because no major seven-year rhythms seem to be present in the natural environment. In this respect, the circaseptennial rhythm differs from the better documented circadian and circaseptadian rhythms, which can be linked to day-night cycle, and to tidal periodicities, respectively."

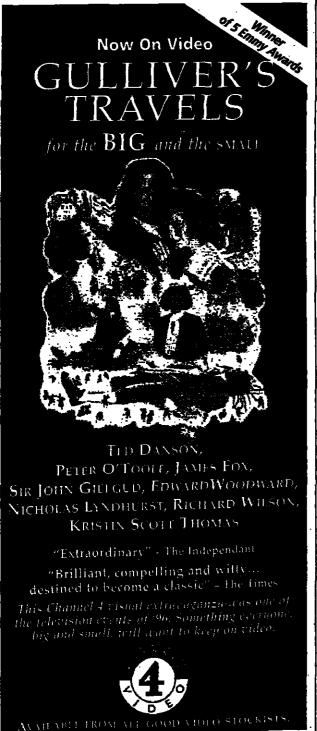
Professor Ian Stewart, of the Mathematics Institute at Warwick University, says that in the Hippocratic tradition the number seven governs the ailments of the body. In Germany it was man ears continue to grow of the body. In Germany it was throughout life – at about believed that people would not catch swine fever if they spent 30 - supporting the observation seven days drinking and bathing that some very old men have big in water containing asphodel (a in water containing asphodel (a type of lily). A Jewish cure for fever involved taking "seven prickles from seven palm trees. Netherlands and Patrick seven chips from seven beam Onghena at Katholieke Uni- seven nails from seven doors...' and so on, up to "seven hairs

from the beard of an old dog". Numerologists see seven as the sum of the spiritual three around multiples of seven years.

They write in the British Medical Journal: "The idea of a cording to the Old Testament, was created in seven days. Psalm 90 sets the human life span at seven decades: Solomon's temple had seven steps, and Noah's dove returned to the ark after



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Moral guideline for schools says marriage is best

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Explicit support for marriage has been included in new guidance for teaching morality in schools after traditionalists put pressure

on government advisors. Draft guidelines had made no mention of marriage, referring merely to valuing families as the hasis of a caring society. But after public consultation, the statement of values for use in moral education has been revised to say that "we as a societv should support marriage as the traditional form of family".

The change, announced yes-terday, will please Gillian Shep-hard, the Secretary of State for Education, who said that she wanted more emphasis on the family than was included in the original. Five members of the 150-strong forum which devised the draft statement had also called for stronger support of the family.

However, the forum, set up by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA), was at pains to point out that the change should not devalue the experience of children growing up in non-traditional families. The new clause adds that society should recognise "that love and commitment required for

a secure and happy childhood can be found in families of other kinds".

Dr Nick Tate, SCAA's chief executive, said the changes represented a compromise following consultation, and denied that Mrs Shephard had influenced the recommendations.

Evidence showed that areas with low levels of marriage and high divorce rates suffered greater social and educational problems, he said. "The challenge to the education system is how can it best help to cre-ate a system in which children aspire to lifelong marriage and are more likely to achieve it."

porting an increased emphasis

on the family and marriage.

Schools were similarly divided.

there was less disagreement over family values than had been thought, and felt the new wording offered a suitable com-

promise, Dr Tate said.

The forum concluded that

The guidance is intended as a

basis for teaching moral values to pupils, to prompt debate and

discussion rather than to be

adopted wholesale. The revised

statement will be put before the

forum next month. Recommen-

dations will be put to the SCAA

and Mrs Shephard in February.

Countries boasting a strong academic performance often included moral education as a core part of their curriculum, Dr Tate said. Although there was no evidence that moral teaching improved standards, "it clearly does not get in the way".

The changes have been made following a wide consultation including a survey of almost 1,500 adults in England and a random sample of 3,200 schools. Fourteen groups of headteachers, school governors and parents contributed their views, and 400 organisations responded to a postal questionnaire.
The MORI poll revealed

that the vast majority of adults

agreed with the statements, al-though the teachers felt that many of the terms used were capable of differing interpreta-tions and thought the guidelines should be shorter and clearer. The consultation found an even split between those who believed there was no single form of the family and those sup-

Stranded: Cars caught in the floodwater which left Chester-le-Street, in Co Durham, awash Photograph: Raoul Dixon

JESIKFT

After the deluge water with nowhere to go

as floodwater swept through its market square lifting cars in

Chester-le-Street in Co Durham was cut off as cars became stranded in water three feet deep after more than 48 hours

of continuous rain. Cars travelling to the town from the west were turned away by police. Other motorists who tried to venture in were left stranded after their engines were overcome with water.

Martin Wallwork, spokesman for Durham Constabulary said: "It appears the flooding has been caused by the blockage of South Burns stream which runs into the town and on to the River Wear. The water had nowhere to go so it just flooded into the market place.

A shopkeeper, Lawrence Steel, said: "Some of the houses near here have been flooded along with a couple of offices. The mechanics next door can't work either becau the garage iscompletely full of

Debt fear over plan to make poor pay bills

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Some of Britain's poorest people are likely to have help with-drawn from the social services departments in paying their bills for heating, electricity, gas, water and council tax.

A leaked document seen by The Independent says it was agreed at a meeting with Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, that the Benefits Agency should "not be in the business of social banking/debt management and should seek to develop a disengagement strat-egy, leading ultimately to the withdrawal of the direct payments scheme".

The Benefits Agency, which handles the payments for thoufood bill.

"The civil servants who work the payments sections" sands of the poorest claimants, said: "The whole thing is under in the direct payments sections review. It is making sure customers understand their responsibilities as well as their rights. Ministers are still thinking about it."

But the leaked decayment in the direct payments sections are outraged. A lot of them enjoy that aspect of their work helping people to get out of debt, "said a civil service source.

When that help is with-

cutting civil service jobs in social security offices across the

The move was condemned as "heartless" by Alan Simpson, a with the banks and the lenders leading member of the Cam-paign Group of Labour MPs, that will go on."

whose local Nottingham office is among those to be hit by the cuts. He said: "This is a slap in the face for some of the poorest in the land."

Direct payments are made by social security officers to the pri-vatised utilities, local councils, and courts, in deductions from benefits for claimants who are in debt and unable to handle their own affairs.

The withdrawal of direct payments will leave the claimants with extra benefits, but civil servants who make the payments fear it will lead to more people falling into debt, and having their gas, water or electricity switched off, because they will spend the money on other items

But the leaked document leaves little doubt the cuts in service will go ahead as part of Mr Lilley's drive to reduce costs by debt."

The direct payments of mort-gages to lenders will not be affected. The Benefits Agency said: "It has been worked out and is more efficient for us, so





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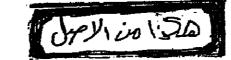
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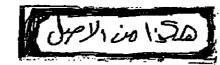
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Repairs win reprieve for owners of Adam's rotting masterpiece

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Moves to purchase compulsorily Chandos House, one of London's finest but most neglected town houses, have been suspended by English Heritage, after its owners started vital

The Grade I listed building built by Robert Adam in 1770 off Portland Place, served for half a century as the Austro-Hungarian embassy and featured in the film Sense and Sensibility. But in more recent years it has stood empty and has been ravaged by dry rot. In May this year, English

issuing a compulsory purchase order for what had become one of the most important buildings on the quango's "Buildings at Risk" register.

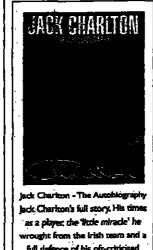
A public inquiry was to be held next month. But following

a start on repairs by the owners, Fairgate Investments, the inquiry has been adjourned indefinitely. The property company, chaired by a Nigerian chieftain, Chief Akindele, has put a new roof on the building and has

agreed to begin further work in the new year. This will include replacing four ornate Adam chimney pieces which were Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of the heritage quango, said he was relieved that work was at

last in progress, but added that the CPO would not be withdrawn until it was completed. Last May he railed against

the "disgraceful neglect" of Chandos House. Extensive dry



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Ruined classic: Chandos House, off Portland Place, London. Although featured in the film Sense and Sensibility, it has been allowed to fall into decay Photograph: Edward Sykes

rot threatened to spread into the principal rooms and there were glittering parties hosted by Prince Eszterhazy, the ambascracks in the wall.

Fairgate bought the proper-ty for £6m in 1988 at the height of the property boom, intending to turn it into a hotel. But, as the company's solicitor observed yesterday: My clients bought the wrong property at the wrong time." Once repaired, the house will be put back on the market for residential or hotel use.

Built for the third Duke of Chandos, the house became the Austrian (later Austro-Hnngarian) embassy from 1815 to 1871 and was the scene of

sador. Its most recent occupant was the Royal Medical Association. On film, it was also the home of John and Fanny Dashwood in the film of Jane

Austen's Sense and Sensibility. Fairgate successfully settled a legal action against a security company over the theft of the chimney pieces. Replacing them will be a specialist task involving the import of marble from Carrara in Italy.

English Heritage served a repairs notice last February, giving the owners two months to carry out £900,000 of work.

Asylum seekers snared in red tape

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

peals system for asylum-seekers and would-be immigrants after a huge rise in the number of out-

standing cases.

Last night the Home Office rejected allegations by Labour's spokesman on immigration and refugees that the criteria for accepting asylum-seekers had been tightened up. Under a 1951 UN convention, anyone with a well-founded fear of persecution" was granted refugee

status, a spokeswoman said. Neither she nor the court service could explain why the number of outstanding appeals had gone up twentyfold since April 1994, from 1,069 to 20,388, while the numbers applying for asylum had fallen. Rules introduced this year under a new Asylum and Immigration Act have restricted benefits for asylumseekers and have required em-ployers to make checks on them.

However, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced in a parliamentary answer that be and the Lord Chancellor would look at whether the system allowed adequate rights of appeal and whether it provided good value for money.

They would also consider what impact immigrants' and asylum-seekers' rights of appeal had on the operation of immigration control, he said.

Doug Henderson, the

Labour spokesman, said asyhum-seekers often did not feel the system was fair. There were 60,000 cases outstanding, and 20,000 were in the appeals system. "It is quite clear that there has been a tightening up by im-migration officers on applications and has led to a greater number of appeals. The whole process is grinding slowly to a halt. It is the exact opposite of Doug Henderson: Questions

Immigration Act."

Parliamentary questions tabled by Mr Henderson revealed that the number of outstanding appeals had risen by almost 9,000 in 11 months, from 11,000. The budget of the Immigration Appellate Authority had gone up from £6.9m in 1994-95 to £9.9m in the current financial year.

Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said Home Office scepticism about asylum cases had affected the

attitudes of adjudicators. "There is a climate of disbelief and a culture of suspicion in the Home Office. We see it every day in our case work. Given that the review is by this Home Office and this Home Secretary we have got to be deeply apprehensive." he said.

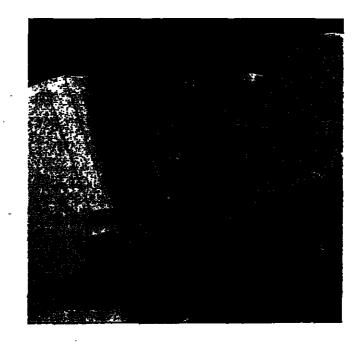
A Home Office spokeswoman said the number of applications for asylum had fallen from 3,300 in January this year to 920 in June. After a High Court ruling temporarily reinstated benefits in June, 2,515 applied in July, the spokeswoman said. "The criteria have always been the same. You could ask if all those appeal applications truly valid or if some are just delaying tactics."



what the Government were try- revealed a rising backlog

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Peruvian leader caught in fatal waiting game

Maria Pallais

After two days of silence, and still without having made an official appearance, President Alherto Fujimori is in close consultation with his most trusted ministers, attempting to find a solution to the devastating blow that Peruvian rebels have inflicted on the credibility of his

Mr Fujimori and his ministers, including Prime Minister, Hugo Pandolfi, Minister of the Interior, General Juan Briones Davila, and Minister of Education, Domingo Palermo, were reported to be meeting yesterday morning in the Presidential Palace to discuss the Japanese embassy siege that followed the seizing on Tuesday night the birthday of Japanese Emperor Akihito – of around 500 diplomats, politicians and business leaders.

The left-wing Tupac Amaru rebels were yesterday still hold-

Prior to that meeting, inside the Japanese mansion rebel leader Andante Emilio Huerta. and other members of the MRTA chose Ambassadors Anthony Vincent of Canada,

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and the French attaché, Hyacinthe D'Montera, to relay their list of demands. First among these is the release of 500 Tupac Amaru prisoners.

On Wednesday night, the five diplomats left the Japanese embassy to meet with a government commission appoint-ed by the President and headed by a local government official. The rebels had asked that Hubert Lanssiers, a priest, and the country's Ombudsman, Jorge Santisteban, act as their representatives. Though they both accepted, so far it is un-

As the rebels see it, their demands are simple - the libera-tion of all the 500 prisoners, among them their leader, Victor Polay. They also want bet-ter conditions in jails, justice for all, and economic opportunities for the poor.

known whether or not they are

a part of the mediation efforts.

But President Fujimori, who has built a world reputation for having had the courage to "disintegrate" terrorism in his country, especially in the capital. Lima, will find it hard to cave in to any of the demands. "He is between a rock and a

Heribert Woeckell of Germany.
Alcibiades Karokis of Greece hard place. If he gives in to just one, of their demands he will lose face forever. If he doesn't, he will be blamed for bloodshed," said one observer.

The drama began minutes after Mr Fujimori's mother and his younger brother, Pedro. had left the Japanese Embassy. A group of 25 young rebels, masked and heavily armed, stormed into the residence, some carrying flowers, others dressed as butlers, and a group from the back door entered through a tunnel they had built. ordering everyone to the floor.

Local analysis were yesterday at a loss as to what the outcome would be. They insist it may be too early to predict anything. Mr Fujimori will have no choice but to reappear before Christmas, according to many. "He's a very calculating man.

He's probably waiting for what the Japanese Foreign Minister, who arrived in Lima early yes-terday morning, will tell him. Then he will listen to the US representative and soon, hopefully on Christmas Eve, he will make his own decision," said a Peruvian doctor who supports Mr Fujimori. "But we have to admit it. This was a heavy blow - totally unexpected."



rmed force could lift Lima siege

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Counter-terrorist groups from around the worldcould be involved in an armed operation to release the hostages being held in the Japanese Embassy in Lima, although the large number of prisoners would make a

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Tupac Amaru started killing

their bostages. Peru has its own, highly-efficient counter-terrorist group called Dincote - the Direc-torate of Intelligence for Counter-Terrorism. Led by General Antonio Ketin Vidal, rescue attempt more difficult. It it captured the leader of the

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would only be attempted if the well-organised kidnappers from man and also the leader of Tupac Amaru, Victor Campos, in 1992 Sources yesterday said they believed the current head of Dincote might be one of the

> European and US agencies have been widely involved in South America because of the war against drug barons, and British experts helped advise Colombian police in the rescue of a British hostage earlier this

It is likely that experts from Britain's SAS, Scotland Yard and the German GSG-9 army unit are already in Lima. The SAS has experience rescuing hostages in circumstances very similar to those of the Lima embassy siege: the Iranian Embassy siege of 1980, which first brought the black-clad, hooded soldiers to the world's attention. During the five-day operation, both the SAS and Scotland Yard gained extensive experi-

ence in hostage negotiations.

The German GSG-9 unit's finest hour was the successful at-

in 1977 by guerrillas from Ger-many and Palestine.

The previous year, Israeli commandos from Mossad had rescued a large number of fellow nationals taken hostage at Entebbe, in Uganda.

France also has an outstanding counter-terrorist unit, GIGN, a division of the French Gendarmerie. It differs from the other principal anti-terrorist forces as it is used against armed criminals in France. Italy also has a crack anti-ter-

rorist squad, a division of the Carabinieri. It performed very competently, rescuing Brigadier-General Dozier of the US Army when he was captured by terrorists in the early 1980s. The Carabinieri come under the Ministry of Defence - unlike the French Gendarmerie - but the Italian unit has not been prominent in international operations since

Experts yesterday said the large number of hostages made a rescue more difficult, but it would be no different in prin-

sents striking parallels with the capture of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, in 1980 by M19, a Colombian leftwing movement. In Lima, the terrorists who seized the embassy posed as waiters: in Bogota, they were playing football in a field opposite the embassy where a similar function was being held. The two teams, referee and linesmen, 25 in all, then donned tracksuits and sprinted across the road,

Japanese Embassy in Lima pre-

seizing the embassy and 75 people, including no less than 14 ambassadors. They held their hostages for two months, demanding the release of 300 prisoners and \$50m. Businesses from the ambassadors' countries eventually raised \$2.5m, and the kidnappers flew to sanctuary in Havana, Cuba with a few of the hostages, who were then released. The kid nappers did not succeed in securing the release of any of the people they wanted freed, but they got away with plenty of

money. It was a satisfactory outtack on a Lufthansa airliner ciple to other hostage rescue op-seized at Mogadishu, Somalia erations. The seizure of the secured by a military attack. come for everyone - but was not

Florida 'racketeers' arrested

Fort Lauderdale (AP) — Nine Corozzo and the others alleges with Gotti on racketeering

teering charges.
Nicholas "Little Nick" suspected of stealing more from the Gambino family. Corozzo, 56, has allegedly been running the crime family now that Gotti is serving a life sentence for the 1985 execution of

a rival crime boss.

alleged members of the Gam-bino crime family, including transporting stolen goods and John Gotti's apparent successor, the attempted murder of a fedhave been indicted on racke- eral informant, Louis Maione, suspected of stealing money

The FBI arrested Mr Corrozo as he emerged from the surf eration from a company called off Key Biscayne. One of Mr Corrozo's top lieutenants, Leonard DiMaria was arrested in New The indictment against Mr York. Both men were acquitted

charges in 1987 in New York. It was the first time an active boss of an organised crime family was arrested in Florida, the FBI said.

According to the indictment, the family ran a loanshark op-EZ Check Cashing, where loans were extended with credit rates of 2 to 5 per cent a week -- equivalent to 260 per cent a year.







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Encryption ruling hailed as free speech victory

An American judge has de-lighted software companies in the United States by ruling that the Constitution's guarantee of "free speech" means that the government may not stop a mathematician from posting encryption programs on the Internet.

The ruling, late on Wednesday in Sun Francisco, may chip away at restrictions on the export of encryption technologies, which are officially classified as "military weaponry".

Academics hailed the ruling by US District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel as a victory for free speech, while computer industry executives called it a milestone for American software

Daniel Bernstein, assistant professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago, and the man at the centre of the case, said: "It's really such a shock to switch from lear of this law to suddenly maybe I can do something. As far as I can tell, I'm free."

The judge's decision stopped short of forbidding all restrictions on the export of encryption, codes that allow computer messages to be scrambled so they are virtually unbreakable by any but the intended receiver.

But Judge Patel said the current rules, which treat such computer programs as if they were military weapons, were "an unconstitutional prior restraint [of speech] in violation of the First Amendment". The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and of the press. introduced in the Cold War.

Judge Patel: 'Current Rules violate First Amendment

significant shorts

Chechens in Tennis star's tribute to Red £10m claim Cross victims rejected

in black gathered outside the failed yesterday in a bid to

agency workers murdered by gunmen in Chechnya. spectator which kept her out of the sport for more than

second mass slaying when six Russian residents of Grozny, were gunned down in their

official mourning for the six for a knife attack by a

Decision may scrap bars to the export of codes on the Internet, writes Charles Arthur

ment-owned supercomputer.

possible to track conspiracies

and criminals, they have argued.

the restrictions handicap them,

and that online shopping, in-

ternational banking and cor-

and sold around the world.

Lawyers said the ruling will allow anyone in the US to post source code, or instructions for how to encrypt messages, on the Internet. However, new federal rules that take effect from 1 January mean the judge's deci-Sion may not have the results the industry hoped for, said the Electronic Frontier Foundation, an online civil rights group. It is not clear if the ruling covers only theoretical mathematical explanations of how such programs work or if actual software, which could be run and sold, can also be freely distributed around the world, the

The White House declined to comment on the judgment, al-though the State Department is expected to appeal. Last year a Justice Department lawyer argued in court that a code whose sole function was to create secreey should not be considered a protected form of speech. A message scrambled by the code. he said, "could be a love letter, or it could be a communication from [Iraqi President] Saddam to bomb Kuwait."

Professor Bernstein's victory marks a triumph for the US Constitution over its government. Restrictions on the export of encryption techniques were

Clinton signed an order liber-alising US export policy, to allow companies to sell slightly more powerful encryption programs abroad, but only if the companies make assurances that US law enforcement could intercept the communications.

More recently, the US and other Western governments, Professor Bernstein came to have argued that the restrictions the State Department's notice are needed to keep tabs on terwhen he wrote an encryption program called Snuffle. This allows users to scramble messages rorist organisations. This allows the export only of "weak" encryption programs, which while effectively impossible for that move across computer networks. The messages can then individuals to crack, are probbe read only by using his deably not safe from a governcryption program, Unsnuffle. The State Department decided in 1993 that the programs re-Allowing more powerful encryption programs to spread unchecked, would make it imquired licenses to communicate them on the Internet, prompt-

ing the lawsuit. Judge Patel noted the office that makes the licensing deci-sions has no standards for deny-US software companies and citizens have complained that ing a license. The president and chief executive of RSA Data Security, the world's largest pro-ducer of encryption technology, praised the ruling. "We inventporate negotiations would benefit from having high-level encryption, which could be used ed this technology but we can't pursue it because of US export Last month, President Bill controls," said Jim Bizdos.

How modern computer encryption keeps its secrets

an encrypted message to Bernie, gets Bernie's "public key" - either by asking Bernie for it, or looking it up in a directory. Bernie also has a "private key" which he never Both the public and private keys are strings of digits and numbers. The longer they are the more secure the encryption

Andrew and Bernie must both

use the same encryption

program for the system to

(encrypted) with public key Official encodes his message using this encryption program shiftigate it Bernies public key. This pathods the message or the pathods the message. diffug tram expension graphs and graphs by doing a complex set diposition of the complex set of the complex

Message locked

Even if the message is intercepted by someone who has being public key, they are very similarly to be able to crack it. The public key is size a petited — you can't open another particle with it. Desoring a wissage generated from the products of two large orders assertions. have to land but what the prime nambers were and that usually requires a supercompating such as those owned by governments.

Bernie, however, has his private key - which in effect means that he has the key to the padlock of his public key. All he has to do is run the encryption software, tap in his private key, and he can read the message from Andrew – fairly confident that

they are the only people who

key out to anyone who wants

costs nothing to make, unlike

have been able to read it.

Bernie can give his public

to send him messages; it

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information leading to the killers' arrest. Grozny - AP Israel in strike

homes. A £60,000 reward

has been offered for

Scores of Chechens dressed

Red Cross compound near

Grozny yesterday, a day of

And with the separatist

gunmen in Chechnya.

at Hizbollah Israeli jets raided Hizbollah targets in south Lebanon after guerrillas fired mortar bombs at an Israeli post during a visit by a senior officer, security sources said. Maj-Gen Amiram Levine, Israel's northern commander, was said to have been at the Braachit post on the edge of Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone when it came under

Top Russian physicist dies

jump from the stands and

claimed £10m for damages and lost earnings.

Lawyers for Seles had

plunge a knife into her back.

Tennis star Monica Se

win damages from the German Tennis Federation

A court rejected her claim

Yuli Khariton, the Cambridge-educated nuclear physicist widely regarded as the father of the Soviet atom bomb, died yesterday at the age of 92. Khariton's body will be flown from the town of Sarov in central Russia, where he died, to be buried at Moscow's élite Novodevichye cemetery.

Mafia suspect Bardot denies indicted

attack. Nabatiyeh - Reuter

Nine alleged members of the Gambino crime family,

Animal-rights activist
Brigitte Bardot denied in including John Gotti's apparent successor, have been indicted on racketeering charges, police in Florida said. Nicholas Corozzo, 56, has allegedly been running the crime family now that Gotti is serving a life sentence for murder. The indictment against Corozzo and the others alleges crimes including loan sharking, transporting stolen goods and attempted murder. Fort Lauderdale – AP

racism charge

court yesterday that she incited racial hatred by claiming in a newspaper article that France was being invaded by sheep-slaughtering Muslims. The charges against the former actress - which carry a punishment of up to a year in prison and a £40,000 fine - were brought by the Movement Against Racism, the League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism and the Human Rights League.

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Swiss 'should repay Nazi war gold'

Louise Jury

An official report on post-war deals on Nazi gold yesterday criticised the way the Swiss government and bankers handled the accounts of Holocaust

The report's authors said the Swiss government had made repeated mistakes in handling the issue and should take "con-

crete compensation measures". However, they did not specify what the measures should be or who should benefit. The two historians, Peter Hug and Marc Perrenoud, were commissioned by the Swiss government in October to investigate claims by Jewish critics and an American senator that Holocaust victims' riches were used to compensate Swiss citizens whose property was seized by countries in eastern Europe.

They rejected the charge that Swiss people were paid directly from the money of Nazi victims. But they confirmed that the Swiss government had made pay-outs to Poland and Hungary after the war.

They urged the government to use its comprehensive archives to hunt for east Europeans whose wealth was declared ownerless and handed over.

"Considering the decades of omissions, it is recommended that further steps be considered in order to fulfil today's perception of justice," the report

It added that Switzerland assigned funds from dormant accounts to Poland and Hungary under post-war compensation accords for confiscated Swiss property. The money helped both countries meet compensation payments, but this was not tantamount to paying off Swiss citizens, it said.

Switzerland paid Poland 16,000 Swiss francs in 1960 from accounts the Poles

law as reverting to them since the missing owners had last lived in Poland.

In 1975, it paid Poland a larger sum of 464,000 francs and Hungary 325,000 francs based claim, but this time the money came from a 1960s fund for bank accounts left unclaimed after their owners became victims of Nazi persecution.

Switzerland has faced a grow ing wave of international criti-cism following the release of documents in the US and Britain apparently suggesting it profiteered from Nazi-looted wealth.

The British MP, Greville Janner, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, has already called on Switzerland to make a signifi-cant gift to Jewish charities in recompense. A trust spokeswoman said yesterday it was clear from the Swiss report that names of account holders had been known.

"A priority must be to reveal the names and they must do it for all the accounts. They must start looking for their heirs or survivors and if they cannot be found then the money in the accounts should be given to the World Jewish Restitution Or-

ganisation," she said. The report was published yesterday as Switzerland finally named the nine-member team of experts who will begin an investigation next month into the country's activities during the Nazi regime.

The commission will be headed by Jean Francois Bergier, a history professor from Zurich. It includes three other Swiss historians and a Swiss lawyer and human rights investigator, Joseph Voyame. There are also four foreign historians, including the Israeli Conscripts who don't measure up must fight the flab in Belarus



Wait in line: A doctor checks a conscript's centre of balance at a recruiting centre in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, 42 per cent of whose military conscripts have been declared unfit for service because of poor health

Photograph: Vasily Fedosenko/Reuters

Taiwan sues over Clinton slush-fund claim

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

nerve", says Ying Chan, a New-York-based journalist who is facing an unusual criminal libel suit filed by a leading member of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang party, backed by President Lee Teng-hui.
The raw nerve was a story in

the Chinese-language news weekly Yazhou Zhoukan alleging Liu Tai-ying, a leading Kuomintang official, offered an illegal \$15m (£10m) contribution to President Bill Clinton's re-election fund. Mrs

Chan believes Taiwanese contributions to the Democratic Party dwarf the controversial funds supplied by the Indonesian Lippo group.

Also named in the suit is her Taiwanese colleague, Hsieh Chung-liang, and Chen Chaoping, a political consultant who has now stated he was the main source for the story. Mr Chen was one of four people present at the meeting with former White House aide Mark Middleton during which the money was aliegedly offered. Mr Chen was not named in the story but has decided to go

tion from the Democratic Party, which faces a growing number of accusations of illicit funding from Asian sources. US parties are not permitted to obtain funding from abroad. "This story is like a centipede", says Mrs Chan. "There are so many legs, every week brings

new information". She would like to get back to reporting it, but has been waylaid by the criminal libel suit. which carries a maximum penalty of two years in jail as well as fines. The action is also extremely costly. Mr Liu, who

There has been no legal ac- nance Officer of the Knom- attend a libel seminar and conintang, one of the world's richest political parties. Although the party has financial muscle, it is not a regular litigant. The Knomintang is not named in this suit but is behaving as a participant by having its spokesman comment on aspects of the case and by calling a meeting of its central committee to endorse

the action. Far more unusual is the endorsement given by President Lee, who usually remains aloof from matters of this kind. "This is clear legal and po-litical harassment", says Mrs sorts to illegal means to win Chan who is in Hong Kong to friends with the chequebook.

sult legal advisers. She is aring for another hearing on 28 January and hopes this will provide an opportunity for Mr Liu to withdraw the action. The pro-Kuomintang media

suggest Taiwan is entitled to all

means at its disposal to gain influence overseas in the face of diplomatic isolation and China's efforts to keep the island out of the international arena. Socalled "money diplomacy" has long been a mainstay of Tai-wan's foreign policy. But the government denies that it resorts to illegal means to win

Parents deride sex and violence codes

Rupert Comwell Washington

After years of pressure from the government, America's television industry yesterday an. classification system for its programmes. But even before it was unveiled, critics insisted the new scheme was too lax to be

effective. The voluntary code, which will take effect in the next two months, is closely modelled on the existing classification system for films. Six categories will apply to all entertainment programmes, ranging from "TV.
G", or suitable for all ages, to "TV-M", for people aged 17 and over. All children's programmes will be labelled either "TV-Y", suitable for all children, or "TV-Y-T', recommended for

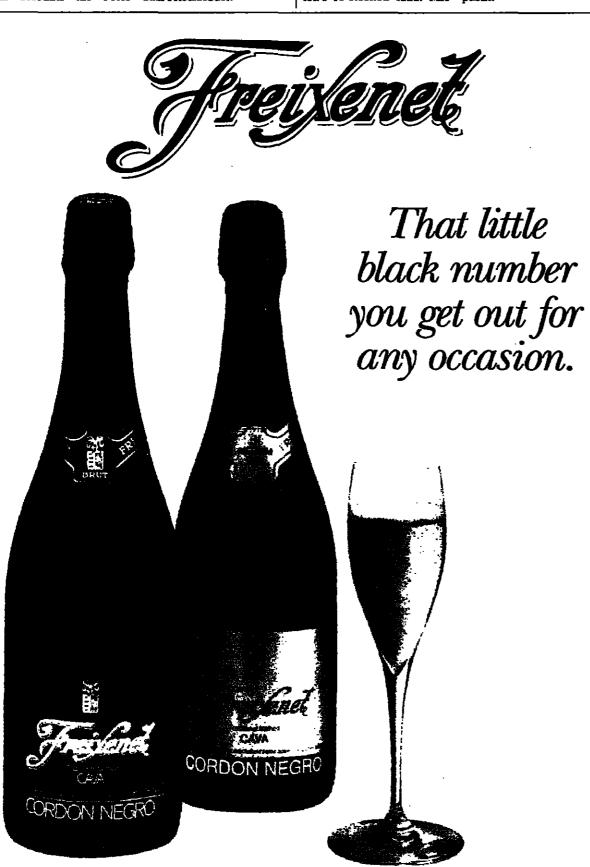
children aged seven or more. The logo will appear in tele-vision listings and guides, and be shown for 15 seconds in the top left-hand corner of the screen at the start of each programme. It will be repeated during programmes lasting an hour or longer, only news and sport

or longer, only news and spon will be exempt.

The guidelines however were instantly denounced by chil-dren's advocacy groups, who ar-gue they are far too vague on a programme's contents. Unlike film classifications, set by an independent body, the TV categories will be decided by the TV companies themselves - a process critics liken to putting a fox in charge of the chicken

Parents' organisations are demanding specific gradings for sex, violence and bad language. "What parent in their right mind would accept a package at the front door labelled 'suitable for a 10-year-old' and hand it to a child without further inspection?", said Gary Bauer, head of the conservative

Family Research Council. But Jack Valenti, President of the Motion Picture Association of America, said the industry would only accept its own voluntary system, and would fight any alternative in the courts.



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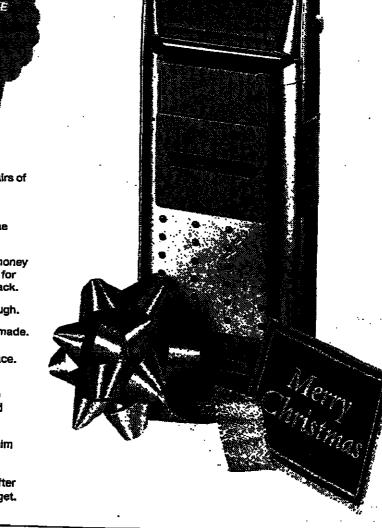
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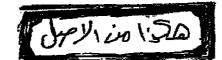
Of course, you could play safe and get him another pair of socks this year.

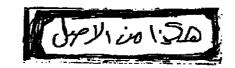
one that suits him.

But just try returning them to the shop after 90 days' use and see what reaction you get.



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Virgin's image reflects religious fervour in Clearwater Bleak mid-winter for

Clearwater, Florida (AP) — Carrying rosary beads and cameras, thousands of worshippers are flocking to the wall of a black glass building where they believe they see the image of the Virgin Mary

"It's quite amozing. It's very spiritual, very peaceful," said Patty Scharn, a receptionist at Seminole Finance, the two-storey building in central Clearwater where the rainbow-coloured image was first noticed on Tuesday. Some said they drove 200 miles from south Florida for

People are making shrines, bringing gifts, candles, flowers, statues and fainted," said police spokesman Wayne Shelor. We have the infirm, the disabled in wheelchairs, the blind. They're coming 500 at

The image, about 50 feet wide and 35 feet tall, bears a striking resemblance to a mantle-covered figure, head slightly bowed. It stretches outside of the building. Shades of purple, blue, yellow and green wash across the mirrored surface like a stained glass window, swirling into a robe-draped figure with downcast head.

No one had an explanation but glass experts planned an inspection to determine if chemicals or mineral deposits from sprinklers caused it.
Joe Mannion, a spokesman for the local Roman Catholic

Diocese of St Petersburg, urged caution. "Everyone should exercise a great deal of healthy scepticism." But believers needed no

xplanation. To them it's a Christmas miracle. "It was like you're in an angel's arms and the light of Christ was above and around me," Barbara Boyer said of

her experience. Businesses nearby say the image has been developing since the Thanksgiving holiday in late November. But it was not until Tuesday that a customer asked if it had been painted on the

"Nobody painted anything," Ms Scharn said.



Bethlehem, with no tree in the square

Bethlehem

It looks as if the little West Bank town of Bethlehem will have to do without a tree this Christmas.

The good Christians of Finland sent a 12-metre fir to stand in Manger Square across from the Church of the Nativ-ity, Jesus's traditional birthplace. When it arrived at Ashdod port this week, the Israeli authorities refused to let it into the country.

Bethlehem has been under Palestinian self-rule for the past 12 months. Since the Palestinians have no port, imports from Europe have to pass through Israel. The Finnish tree was sent back on the next boat.

The mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, yesterday con-demned the ban as "narrowminded and provocative". Israel sent an Israeli replacement. Mr Freij promptly sent it back. "It was dead," he said indignantly. I told them to throw it away.

The Israelis say they stopped the Finnish fir on purely pub-lic health grounds. Eldad Landes, director of plant protection

services in the Ministry of Agri-culture, said it was forbidden by law to let foreign conifers into

"The risk," he explained, "is that the trees might carry insects or fungus that don't exist in this country. They could endanger all our forests and our agriculture. The Finns have been aware of this ban for five years now. They wouldn't let us send Israeli trees to Finland for the

same reason." Mr Landes added that Israel was ready to give Mr Freij another tree if the first offering was not to his satisfaction. "Of course," he said, "he won't accept it. It's all politics."

The 78-year-old mayor has political problems this Christmas on the home front too. Palestinian activists have strung pendants across Manger Square with the portrait of Abu Jihad, co-ordinator of Palestinian resistance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who was assassi-nated by Israeli commandos in

Tunis in 1988. Abu Jihad is a Palestinian folk hero, but he has nothing to pictures are against the Christmas spirit," Mr Freij, anember of the Greek Orthodochurch protested. "We are goin to take them down.

Similar portraits of Yasser Arafat, however, will lay up. The Palestinian Presient, a devout Muslim, is coring to Bethlehem with his AralChristian wife, Suha, for minight mass on Christmas Eve.

Bethlehem's second 'alestinian Christmas promiseto be a bleak affair. According Mr Freij, who has been mayor 3:25 years, the hard-up Palesnian Authority has given them oth-ing for the celebrations. Nchas organised Christendom.

But the mayor is nothing if not an optimist. He is looing forward to 2000, a Christian by year. Next spring he planto launch a \$200m appeal in lurope and the Americas to me the run-down, neglected old sy worthy of the millennium.

Till then, the good Christias of Finland are sending a Fath-Christmas to distribute pn sents in Manger Square ner Tuesday night. God rest yo

Santa strapped for cash

Abigail Schmeiz Reuter

Stockholm — Santa's little helpers have downed tools at North Pole post offices in Greenland and Iceland, leaving piles of children's Christmas letters unanswered and thousands

of dreams unfulfilled. Carefully penned letters full of Christmas requests which are sent to Santa every year by children from all over the world have fallen victim to government spending cuts.

"Kids can send a letter to Santa but they won't get an an-

ta Claus of Greenland Foun- Pole in Iceland, has taken over dation said. "The more letters some of the job and is cam we answered, the more we got and we simply can't afford it."

Two years ago, official funding for the project was with-drawn and the service stopped. Now the letters are put into storage - mostly unopened.

Children who address their letters to "Santa Claus, North Pole, Iceland" probably won't have much luck either. The state-sponsored Icelandic tourism board, which once answered the letters, was forced by budget cuts to stop the pro-

paigning to make the country Santa's "rightful home". Swe den, Finland, and Canada als

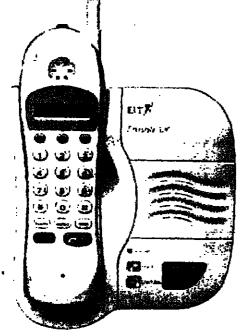
claim residency rights. Children who write to th Finland address have a bette chance of getting a reply, bi even then it is luck of the draw The post office's Santa project received 600,000 letters th year and staff say it is imposs

ble to answer them all. The spirit of Christmas live on in Sweden, however. The post office receives up 80,00

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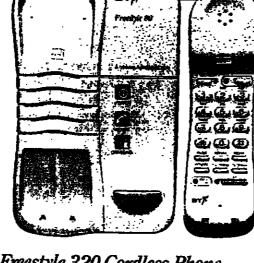
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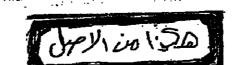
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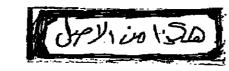
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[10]

appear - particularly to a cine-illiterate generation of Hollywood-fixated moviegoers for whom film history was born more or less when they themselves were and for whom, finally, the masterpieces of those dim, now unknowable decades. the Thirties, Forties, Fifties and Sixties, constitute not only the cinema's history but its prehistory, not its Golden Age but its Dark Ages - Marcello Mastroianni was the most sheerly indispensable film star of the entire post-war period.

Though he made his first appearance on screen as an adoescent in 1939, in Carmine Gallone's Marionette, and could be glimpsed in scores of films (sometimes as little more than an extra) before he achieved real and enduring fame, his heyday as an actor, the Sixties and Seventies, coincided with that of the European art cinema, the cinema of the French nowelle vague, of Bresson, Buñuel and Bergman and of his own compatriots Fellini, Antonioni and Visconti. and it is with that halevon period that he will always be associated. Like that of the films in which he starred, Mastroianni's public image was imbued with a superficially glamorous panache. Yet, as was equally true of his films, that external romantic allure was gnawed at from within by a psychological and even sexual am- and in Ettore Scola's mawkish

liest, jeune premier roles. There was noting shallow

about Mastroianni. His dark, matinée-idol facial features were humanised and spiritualised by more than a hint of melancholic insecurity. And to those for whom he represented the crudely sexist epitome of the "Latin Lover" - a more intellectual Rossano Brazzi, perhaps - it may come as a surprise to discover just how many of the characters he played, during an unusually lengthy and pro-lific career, were designed to undermine the cliché.

In Mauro Bolognini's curious

Il Bell'Antonio (1961), for example, his provincial philanderer turned out to be sexually impotent; in Pietro Germi's Divorzio all'Italiana (Divorce Italian Style, 1962) he played a vain, languorous baron with greasy waxed moustaches and a hideously unbecoming hairnet; in Jacques Demy's L'Evènc-ment le plus important depuis que l'homme a marché sur la lune (The Most Imponant Event Since Man Walked on the Moon, 1974) he was the planet's first pregnant man; in Allonsanfan (which was also made in 1974 by the Taviani brothers: that odd title, incidentally, is a slangy corruption of "Allons, enfants...", the open-ing words of La Marseillaise) he was a weary revolutionary resolved to make sense of his life;

he played a lonely, disgraced ho-mosexual befriended by a neigh-bouring housewife (Sophia Loren!). Just as the world's poets, novelists and dramatists have almost always elected to portray Don Juan at any period out that of his vigorously lubricious prime - Don Juan as an infant,

if widely admired Una Giorna

ta speciale (A Special Day, 1977)

as an adolescent, as an exhausted old codger - so the di-rectors with whom Mastroianni frequently worked tended to divert his apparent donjuanesque suavity and good looks to their own equivocal ends. And it was to his credit, as the least narcissistic of film stars, that he so readily subordinated his own vanity to their vision. As befits the most celebrated male actor of the Italian cinema, his childhood and youth

recall the narrative of an early neo-realist film. Born of a desperately impoverished peasant family, he was sent to a German labour camp during the Second World War, effected a daring escape and went into hiding in an attic in Venice. Drifting into the theatre in 1948, while still at university, he started to acquire a reputation for himself as a promising member of Luchino Visconti's prestigious repertory company, for which he acted in Shakespeare, Goldoni, Chekhov and Tennessee Williams. In-evitably, though, he would focus his attentions on the cinema. which was then enjoying an ex-traordinary recrudescence in

For many years, in now forgotten comedies and melodramas, he played good-looking working-class heroes, skirtchasing taxi drivers and smalltime swindlers. But, by 1958, when he had completed both Visconti's exquisitely stylised adaptation of Dostoevsky's White Nights (Le Notti Bianchi, in which he co-starred with Maria Schell and Jean Marais) and Mario Monicelli's delightfully dizzy farce, precisely what one



might imagine an Italian Ealing comedy to be, I soliti ignoti (generally, if crassly, translated into English as Big Deal on Madonna Street, with Toto and Vittorio Gassman), the para-meters of his career had been established.

Mastroianni performed in

scores of films, an astonishing-ly high proportion of which were made by major or, at least, prominent directors: Jules sin (*La Loi*, 1958, or, in English, Where the Hot Wind Blows - poor Mastroianni was never lucky with his English titles); Michelangelo Antonioni (he played a cynically disabused novelist in La Note, 1961); Louis Malle (as Brigitte Bardot's theatre director in Vie Privée, A Very Private Affair, 1961, a supposedly scathing but ultimately unpersuasive dissection of the whole Bardot phenomenon); Valerio Zurlini (the very mov-

ing Cronaca familiare of 1962); Elio Petri (La Decima Vittima,

uncanny resemblance to each The Tenth Victim, 1965); John Boorman (Leo the Last. 1970, a other (as also happened with François Truffaut and his filmic pseudo-Brechtian fable in which alter ego, Jean-Pierre Léaud). He was unforgettable as the dishe was cast as a deposed prince who fetches up in Notting Hill Gate, of all unlikely spots); and Roman Polanski (What?, 1973). illusioned gossip columnist in La Dolce Vita (1960); became less He was both poignant and hi-larious as a flatulent, suicidal Fellini's alter ego than what might be called his alter egoïste gastronome in Marco Ferreri's as the movie-director protagonist of $8^{1}\rho$ (1963); played the once notorious La Grande Bouffe (1973). And, in the cycle sumptuously named Snaporaz, of frothy comedies in which he was regularly featured opposite Sophia Loren (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Marriage Italian Style. The Priest's Wife, etc), he could justifiably claim to be the There is, of course, a name missing from the list, which is that of Federico Fellini, with whom Mastroianni enjoyed so close a personal and profes-sional relationship that, in their

whisked through a gaudy treadroill of militant feminism in La Città Delle Donne (City of Women, 1979); was profound-by touching (especially for those of us who had known him young) as an ageing, dishevelled variety-hall trouper in Ginger and Fred (1986, opposite the director's wife and alter egoette, Giulietta Masina); and made a. brief valedictory cameo in the Maestro's penultimate film, the semi-documentary Intervista (Interview, 1987, scandalously unreleased in this country, although now available on video),

real date of birth) in something

I had published. Only in the last six months of his life, when he

asked me to help with revisions for his sixth and final edition of

the Penguin Dictionary of Music, did I have the chance to know

Typically, as I quickly learnt,

he wanted to put his affairs in

order, and set about it with an

indefatigable will and clarity of

purpose, despite fast increasing

frailty. Each meeting at his Ox-

ford house had a clear objective.

Not a moment was wasted. We

would begin in his well-ordered

study, papers laid out ready, completing our task before cof-

fee was permitted next door in

the light-filled breakfast room.

often joined by his wife Betty.

The tempting diversion of gos-

sip or conversation was never al-

lowed to interrupt the matter in

hand. Arthur knew his time was

short but, equally, be valued the

mality and makes no distinction

between acquaintance and

friendship. Arthur Jacobs re-

tained an old-fashioned respect

his private thoughts for those

closest to him but showing a shy,

almost blunt warmth to those

outside that circle which was all

objects were principally

In an age which eschews for-

time of others.

him better.

whose highlight was the affectionate and affecting reunion, almost 30 years on, of the two stars of La Dolce Vita,

Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg. For virtually four decades now, the principal methodology of film criticism has been the Auteur Theory, which postulates the director as the true and, indeed, sole author of a film. If ever a corresponding Acteur Theory were to be evolved, however, then Marcello Mastrojanni would deserve to be accorded one of the most elevated niches in its Pantheon. Without him, the history of the contemporary European cinema is simply inconceivable.

Gilbert Adair

Marcello Vincenzo Domenico Mastroianni, actor. born Fontana Liri, Italy 28 September 1924; married 1950 Flora Carabella (one daughter; and one daughter by Catherine Deneuve); died



earned. Shortly before his death, still questing for the new, he had hoped to get to ondon for *Di€ So*i English National Opera. To his own regret, and to those of us who hoped to see him there, it was not to be.

Arthur David Jacobs, musicologist and critic: born Manchester 14 June 1922; member of the Editorial Board, Opera 1961-96; Professor, Royal Academy of Music 1964-79; Head of the Music Department, Huddersfield Polytechnic 1979-84, Professor 1984-96: Founder and Editor, British Music Yearbook (formerly Music Yearbook) 1971-79, Advisofor these boundaries, reserving ry Editor 1979-83; Visiting Fellow, Wolfson College, Oxford 1979, 1984-85, 1991-92; married 1953 Betty Upton Hughes (two sons); died Oxford 13 December 1996. the more rewarding for being

shot by the Germans in Octo-ber 1941. After schooling in his native town, he studied archaeology at the University of Belgrade, where he also started teaching, completing his doctoral dissertation in 1964 and becoming professor of Prehistoric Archaeology in 1976. Aware of the wealth of sites

to be explored, Srejovic directed his activity to prehistoric localities as well as to those of late Antiquity and the early Christian period. Among the first, his most spectacular find, between 1965 and 1970, was the extensive Mesolithic settlements on the right bank of the Danube, above the Iron Gates. Named after the main locality, Lepenski Vir, and dating from c6700BC to 5500BC, they contained evidence of a flourishing culture with much monumental stone sculpture. His book about them, Europe's First Monumental Sculpture: new discoveries at Lepenski Vir., was published in English in 1972.

Professor

Dragoslav Srejovic

To historians interested in ancient civilisations of southeastern Europe, Dragoslav Srejovic was known as "the ar-

chaeologist with golden fingers". His talent and intuition led

him to several important finds

which not only enriched previ-

ous knowledge but opened en-

tirely new vistas. Thanks to his

enthusiasm and dauntless de-

termination, his erudition and

impeccable methodology, huge

steps forward were made in the

study of archaeology in Serbia

and Montenegro. This meant, as well as excavating new sites,

making the evidence available

through scholarly publications

and international gatherings

and, above all, training new

Srejovic was born in 1931 in

Kragujevac, Serbia, a town best known for the cruel treatment

of its civilian population during

the Second World War - in-

cluding 300 schoolboys taken

out of their classrooms and

generations of students.

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Dictionary of Art (1996). From 1975, in spite of limited resources, he persevered in 👝 his search for the palace complex of Romuliana built by the Emperor Galerius (305-311) in honour of his mother Romulabut. He suspected that it lay at Gamzigrad, in the Timok valley in eastern Serbia (the former Roman province Dacia Ripensis). Following several fruitful excavations, he was proved right by the discovery of a

monumental inscription, Felix

He also wrote the entry on

Lepenski Vir for Macmillan's

Romuliana, in 1984. Most recently, while continuing his study of Gamzigrad, his hunch took him to a remote site at Sarkamen, near Negotin, where he expected to reveal the remains of a palace built by the Roman emperor Maximinus Daia (307-314), nephew of Galerius. After three difficult terial help, his team of young archaeologists unearthed ample evidence that their teacher's thoughts were correct.

Only a month before his death and already seriously weakened by illness, Srejovic presented an impressive find of ewellery and other items confirming that yet another important site, that of Dacia Ripensis, was waiting to be explored.

Zaga Gavrilovic

Dragoslav Sreiovic, archaeologist: born Kragujevac, Serbia 8 October 1931; Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology. University of Belgrade 1976-96; died Belgrade 29 November 1996.

Professor Arthur Jacobs

Arthur Jacobs was one of the leading writers on music of his generation. Although he never occupied the position of music critic on a major newspaper, his writings, characterised by the forthrightness with which he always expressed himself and his impatience with any sort of affectation or pretension, were distributed across a wide range of media, from the daily, weekly and monthly press to books. both popular and scholarly.

Born in Manchester in 1922, and educated at Manchester Grammar School and at Oxford. musical scene what was firmly an outsider's consciousness, in many ways a great strength but perhaps his Achilles' heel as far as the advancement of his career was concerned. He several times began to establish himself as a critic for a London newspaper but was then passed over when it came to the possibility of a longer-term appointment. A directness that could sometimes come close to the abrasive, though rarely ap-plied when not richly deserved, did not always endear him to others in his younger days,

He had begun his London career writing for the Daily Ex-press, in 1947. He had a spell with the Evening Standard, and

as a freelance wrote as second critic for the Financial Times and later the Sunday Times, as well as for the Jewish Chronicle. He was a regular writer for the monthly Musical Times, and for a while was acting editor, but for one reason or another was never asked to succeed formally to the editorial chair. In 1962 he joined the editorial board of Opera, where for 10 years he was influential as deputy editor, and for much longer than that, indeed right up to the present, as a leading critic. He was a passionately openminded critic. wide in his knowledge and sympathetic, though by no means uncritically so, to new music and new

ni: matinée-idol features humanised by a hint of insecurity

ideas with a progressive outlook to match his own. Jacobs had a strong mission to bring good, clear writing and dependable information about music to a wider public. His Penguin New Dictionary of Music, published in 1958 and still going strong (its sixth edition came out earlier this year), is a typical product in its brisk, no-nonsense manner. This is produced. It was followed by a

Penguin Chorul Music Sympo-

sium (1963). I had the privilege

The Pan Book of Opera (1964), a valuable learning experience, for a young writer, in the application of scholarly method to writing for a broad readership, not to mention his passion for accuracy and precision. His last reference work was a Penguin Dictionary of Musical Performers (1990). In 1970 he conceived the

idea of a Music Yearbook,

putting together an ambitious

plan for a comprehensive reference work about musical life, which immediately proved to be a valuable and soon an essenlife. He edited what is now the British Music Yearbook from 1972 to 1979, as well as a Music Education Handbook in 1976. These were energetic years; his productions also included a Short History of Westem Music, no less, published in 1972. During this time he was teaching at the Royal Academy of Music, but in 1979 he took the opportunity to return for a time to the north as Head of Music and later Professor at Huddersfield Polytechnic. He only one of several reference or semi-reference paperbacks he a number of institutions in the United States, Canada and

Australia. of helping him with the next, tre of his interests. He was a

Francis Powys, novelist, 1875; Sir Robert Gordon Menzies, statesman,

firm believer that it was meant to be fully understood, and that meant it should be presented in English to Englishspeaking audiences. He was a good linguist himself and trans-lated more than 20 operas, from Italian, French, German and Russian, in a fluent and direct style that sometimes betraved (though not often inaptly) his early love of Gilbert and Sullivan (the subject of his

first book, in 1951). Typically, they covered a range of composers from Monteverdi (L'incoronazione di Handel, Berlioz, Rossini and Tchaikovsky. He wrote the libretto, after Saki's short story, journalist then working for a pafor Nicholas Maw's One Man Show (1964).

Jacobs somehow managed, among all this diversity of writing and editing, to pursue serious scholarly research. He had a spell as visiting scholar at Wolfson College, Oxford, and decided to settle in Oxford for his last years. He appeared regularly at meetings of the Royal Musical Association, always ready to ask awkward questions. His chief passion was for the late Victorian era. He followed up his early Sullivan book with a Opera was always at the cen-full-scale, authoritative bio-

graphical study in 1984, Arthur

lively in style, rich in context. original and penetratific in its. criticism. Then in 1994 came Henry Wood: maker of the Proms, again the product of fresh research. It is by these substantial contributions that he would most have liked to be remembered: although he also had the true scholar's humility and would never have wanted any of his writings to be called definitive". He had further books planned when he became ill; he faced this with characteristic candour and courage, streng enea by the loving sur port of his wife Betty, whom he had married in 1953, herself a

Italian Cary Grant.

later lives, the two men, by a

bizarre but not unique phe-

nomenon of physical conver-

gence, actually came to bear an

Sullivan: a Victorian Musician,

Like countless others, I grew up with Arthur Jacobs's Penguin Dictionary of Music as a vade-mecum which saw me through every music exam and beyond writes Fiona Maddocks. In professional life, I knew Arthur slightly for many years, from en-counters at the first night operas he so assiduously attended or from correspondence in which, with great tact, he would point

per in New Zealand, where she had long lived. Stanley Sadie

out an error or fact or a disputed date (such as Placido Domingo's

Ban on Amnesty radio advertising upheld

LAW REPORT 20 December 1996

Regina v Radio Authority, ex parte Bull and another, Court of Anneal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous, Lord Justice Brooke)

Campaigning against a government in order to persuade it to change its laws or policies was a "political" activity, the radio advertising of which was prohibited by section 92 of the Broadcasting Act 1990.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by David Neill Bull and Nigel Wright against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on 4 July 1995, refusing their application for judicial review of the decision of the Radio Authority on 7 October 1994 to ban further radio advertising by Amnesty In-ternational (British Section).

The ban was imposed under section 92(2)(a) of the Broadcasting Act 1990, which prohibits the inclusion in a licensed service of:

(1) Any advertisement which is inwhose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature; (2) Any advertisement which is directed to wards any political end.

The applicants were respec-

tively the director and chairman of the council of the British Second or "political". Their proper

tion of Amnesty International, meaning was important in determining this appeal. an unincorporated association founded in 1961 to promote Where a body had formally awareness of human rights. set out its objects, as Amnesty They contended that Amnesty's

humanitarian and non-political. The authority approached the matter on the basis that: In order to determine whether the In order to determine whether the objects of AIBS are wholly or mainly political, the Authority consider whether each of those objects is principally aimed at securing a change of the United Kingdom law or the law of any foreign country, or a reversal of organization of the control of the c versal of government policy or administrative decisions in the UK or abroad or at persuading the UK gov-erument or any foreign govern-ment to alter its policies or to adopt particular policies.

On this basis, the authority decided that Amnesty's objects were "mainly political". Nigel Pleming QC and Peter Duffy and Sean Wilken (Bindman & Pus) for Amnesty, David Pannick QC and Dinah Rose (Allen & Overy) for the

had, one would expect the authority to decide, at first instance, whether those objects fell within section 92(2)(a) by doing no more than examine the statement of its objects. Where there was doubt as to whether the formal statement reflected the true position or where it was not possible to determine the position by merely looking at the objects, the authority was entitled to examine any other material available. Where there was more than one object and some were political and others not. it might be essential to go beyond the formal statement of objects to see whether they were mainly political.

The meaning of "wholly or mainly" was not free from ambiguity. It had to be construed as part of a provision restricting Amnesty's freedom of com-Lord Woolf MR said there munication. The issue was not

justifiable but how it should be construed having regard to its effect. The ambiguous words should be construed restrictively. To fall within the provision, therefore, a body must be more than 75 per cent political.

In considering "political", assistance was provided by the case of McGovern v.4-G [1982] Ch 321 at 240, where Slade J was concerned with whether Amnesty was entitled to charitable status. He decided it was not, because all the main objects of the trust were in part political in that their purpose was: to further the interests of a particular political party; to procure changes in the laws of this or a foreign country, or to procure reversal of government policy or particular decisions of government authorities in this or a foreign country. No better guidance was

available as to what was here meant by "political" and his Lordship accepted the authority's argument that this was the correct approach.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

 This is the last law report for the Michaelmas Term. Law reports resume at the beginning of the was no statutory definition of whether such a restriction was Hilary Term, on 13 January 1997

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

KIRKMAN: To Julia and Yuval, a dioghter, Naomi Beatrice, on 16 December 1996. McDOUGALL: On 18 December to Susminer liver) and forguil, a son, has been Steele, a brother for

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS.
MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deuths, Memo-rial services, Wedding nuniversaries, In Memoriana's should be sent in writing w the Gazette Editor, The Independent 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour auswering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (NAT extra). OTHER Gazette aucoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT eutro. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of Kent, Chancellot, Surrey Uni-Norsely, provides at a Conforment of Derices Ceremons, at Guildford Cathedral,

Changing of the Guard The Household Catalry Mounted Rees ment manufacture Colores Life Guard at Borne Guards. Ham: Namegen Compa-ne Grenader Guards means the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palore. H. Alam, hand provided by the Sens Guards.

Birthdays

Miss Jenny Agutter, actress, 44; Mr Michael Beaumont, Seigneur of Sark, 69; Lord Brabason of Tara, former government minister, 50; Mr Bilby Bragg, rock singer and songwriter, 38: Mr Simon Channing, former chairman, London Philharmonic, 30: Sir George Coldstream QC, for-mer permanent secretary to the Lord Chancellor, 89: Mr Malcolm Cooper, marksman, 40; Mr Peter Criss, drummer, 54; Mr Charles Denton, Head of Drama, BBC Television, 54; Miss Bo Derek, film actress, 39; Mr Bo Diddley, singer and guitarist, 68; Lord Howe of Aberryon guitarist, 160; Loro rawne and Marister, 70; CH QC, Iormer Cabinet minister, 70; Mr Simon Hughes, cricketer, 37; Miss Mr James 50: Mr James Lesley Judd, actress, 50; Mr James Lesley Judd, actress, 50; Mr James Leasor, author, 73; Sir Gavin Light-man, High Court judge, 57; Mr Dunald Tindy, actor, 78; Miss Rachel Trickett, former principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 73; Mr John Whitney, chairman, the Really Useful Group, oc. Mr John Wilkins, Editor,

Anniversaries

Births: Nicholas Sanson, cartographer, 1599; Pieter de Hooch, painter, 1029; John Wilson Croker, politician and reviewer, 1780; William Burn, architect. 1789; Nicolas-Toussaint Charlet, designer and military painter, 1792; Thomas Graham, chemist, 1805; Friedrich Kuhmstedt, organist and composer, 1809; Leopold von Meyer, pianist, 1816; The Rev Edwin Abbott Abbott, beadmaster and theologian, 1838; Teresa Schwartze, portrait painter, 1852; Harvey Samuel Firestone, industrialist, 1868; Lorenzo Perosi. Thoresen ferries collided off Har-priest and composer, 1872: Theodore wich, with the loss of six lives, 1982.

Thomas Hill, literary patron, proto-type of "Paul Pry", 1840; Henry Harland, novelist and editor, 1905; Emile-François Loubet, statesman, 1929; Erich Friedrich Wilhelm von Ludendorff, general, 1937; James Hilton, novelist, 1954; Moss Hart, playwright, 1901; John Ernst Steinbeck, novelist, 1968; Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, Spanish prime min-ister, assassinated 1973; Bobby Darin (Robert Walden Cassotto), singer, 1973: Artur Rubinstein, pianist, 1982; Gwen Berryman, actress ("Doris Archer"), 1983; Bill Brandt, photographer, 1983. On this day: the first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was held, 1560; Peter the Great's reformation of the Russian calendar was announced, 1699; the last issue of the original Speciator was published, 1714; the State of Texas was incorporated in the United States, 1845; the State of South Carolina secoded from the American Union, 1860; the first London per-formance of the operetta Madame Pempadour was presented, 1923; Karl Renner became the first president of the new Austrian republic, 1945; the first atomic ice-breaker, the Lenin, began operating, 1959; Wla-dyslaw Gomulka, Polish Communist leader, resigned office after riots by

workers, 1970; Romuald Spasowski,

Polish ambassador to the US, was

granted political asylum in the Unit-

ed States, 1981; two Townsend

Today is the Feast Day of St Ammon and his Companions, St Dominic of Silos, St Philogonius and St 1894; Robert Jemison Van de Graaff, physicist and inventor 1901 Deather Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, AD 107; Ambroise Pare, surgeon, 1590; Lectures

Emmerich von Vattel, jurist, 1767; National Gallery: Jacqueline Lewis. "Same Difference (iii): Van Dyck, Charity, and Reynolds, Lady Cock-Church appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Paul Avis, Vicar, Stula: Canon, Poirti-more with Hardson, and Rese with Nethereus (Excier): to be also Sub-Dean of Excier Cathe-dral (Excier).

The Rev Rudney Biddle, Vicar, Shrewsbury, St. George to be also Priest-in-charge, Bic-ton, Montford with Shrawardine and Fitz

(Lindschift)
The Rev Michael Calaridge, Priest in charge
Wellington, Christ Church: to be Vicar
Wellington, Curist Church (Lichfield).
The Rev Nicholas Flint, Team Vicar, Ifield (Chuchester). The Rev Jonathan Greener, Domestic Chap-

Lain to the Bishop of Thurn; to be Vicar Bogiaton Presion The Good Shepherd (Chich

Brighton Preston The Good Shepherd (Chehester).

The Rev John Harris, Vicar, Moldgreen: to be Pricet-m-change, South Ossett Christ Church (Wakefield).

The Rev Paul Harrley, Team Vicar, Guiseley with Esholt (Bradford): to be Rector, St Cathbert, Actoorth (Wakefield).

The Rev Mark Howarth, Vicar, Swaltham Pricer, Swaltham Bulbeck and Reach: to be also Roral Deam of Fordham (Ely).

The Rev Andrew Mitcham, Strme Proct, Walsurgham: to be Vicar, West Worthing St John the Drome (Chehester).

The Rev Samon Morgan, Carde, Pescehaven and Telecouble with Puddinghoe and Southease: to be Priest-in-charge, East Deam with Firston and Evengton (Chehester).

The Rev Keuth Sainth, Curate (NSM), Maybridge: to be Assistant Curate, Durrington (Chehester).

the leader page

Let children sing carols and light the menorah

erald angels sing in they should be a great experience for David's City, shepherds all the children concerned. watch poor men gathering winter fuel, and a . Birmingham maths teacher gets upset. The sight of Muslim children singing Christian celebration songs proved rather too much for one Muslim teacher. Israr Khan cried out to Allah, the audience started booing, and Christian parents took offence. Hardly a great start to the season of goodwill.

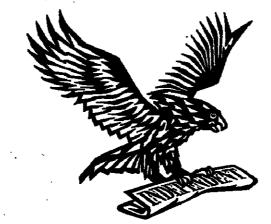
Given the ongoing discrimination against Islam in Britain's schools, it is perhaps unsurprising that one fervent Muslim decided he had heard one "Oh Little Town" too many. The Government still insists - inappropriately - that all schools hold a daily act of Christian worship. And although the state funds Catholic schools, Church of England Schools and Jewish schools, there are still no Muslim schools with government financial support.

Even so, for all that there may be genuine Muslim gripes against the hold of Christianity over state education, the Birmingham maths teacher went too far. There is nothing wrong with a good Christmas sing-song, and most families, whatever their religion, should be glad for their children to participate. School carol services tread a narrow line between being an act of Christian worship, a cultural celebration and educational experience. But so long as they tumble out on the right side of that line,

Forcing children to worship a foreign faith against their own or their parents wishes certainly isn't acceptable. But nobody does that. All parents are at liberty to withdraw their children. Nor can schools get away with assuming all their pupils are Christians these days. Teachers are mostly acutely sensitive to the different belief systems and cultural backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

Indeed, most schools already handle the modern clash of cultures admirably. The fact that the Government insists on state schools holding a daily acts of Christian worship does not make life easier. Compulsory Christian gatherings are inappropriate in most schools, where children come from all kinds of religious backgrounds, and many parents either don't believe in any God at all, call him by a different name, or have very strong views within a particular strand of Christianity.
In practice, though, most schools

sensibly sidestep the problem, by playing up the moral, ethical and cultural side of of assemblies, and playing down the belief. The procedures for opting out of the daily religious gathering are explicit and well known, so no child of another faith need endure hymnsinging and Jehovah-guiding if they don't want to. So while it would be far better if our state schools were secular institutions, as they are in France and



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believe, but how they believe. The rit-

uals through which others worship and

celebrate their faith are as much a part

of religion as the names of the Gods

they believe in. Teaching religion and

culture through songs, stories and drama is probably the best way to com-

the US, there is little point in drawing up battlelines over the issue.

Religious education is quite another matter. Learning about other religions and cultures, whether we choose to believe in them or not, is an essential part of a rounded education. RE is rightly a legal requirement. Christians should learn about Islamic traditions. Hindus about Jewish culture, and so on. Perhaps most important of all, totally secular children should have the chance to learn what it is they don't believe in. Moreover, to understand truly other

municate it to non-believers, particularly young ones. After all, religions are not sets of propositions, they are stories from which cultures are generated which twine round each other like double helixes. Participating in a nativity play is a great way to understand the religions and cultures, we need to Christian faith, as a story, a drama, and a mythology, rather than a list of falsiknow not just what other people

fiable statements that you can choose to accept or reject.

The Christmas theatrical tradition in Britain twists back centuries, through pantos, mystery plays, mummers plays and nativities; the lessons are cultural as much as they are religious. As Mark Santer, the Bishop of Birmingham. points out, Christmas enters the minds and imaginations of the most secular Brit, not through discussion or lecture. "but by the telling and hearing of stories, by the repetition of familiar carols and hymns, by looking at pictures. None of these describes the mystery of Christmas in a way that is either literal or exhaustive. All are more or less allusive or symbolic". Other religions should be taught and experienced in the same way. Christian children can learn much from lighting the candles at Hanukkah, or watching the televised Mahabharata, the epic of Hindu stories.

But most schools know this already. They treat religious festivals as opportunities to educate, not to force worship. Many go to great lengths to accommodate the sensitivities of different religious groups. The words of Christmas carols are changed to avoid references to "the son of God," for the birth of Jesus was after all the birth of a Muslim prophet. The Birmingham school at the centre of this week's religious clash celebrates other festivals such as the Festival of Light and Ramadan, as well as Christmas.

Mr Khan, the maths teacher, should have sat through the carol concert and enjoyed the singing, rather than perceiving the Christian songs as a threat to his own religion. And equally he should have looked forward to drawing the entire school into his own religious and cultural celebrations at other times of year. Still, perhaps Mr Khan's outburst is actually all the proof we need that our cultures and traditions are not really that far apart. After all, we all get fraved and fractious at Christmas.

Big brains but no common sense

My ivory tower is taller than your wory tower. Not content with the Varsity matches, the Boat Race, and many another ancient rivalry, Oxford and Cambridge are at it again. Oxford came top of the first research table for universities. But Cambridge think it's a cheat. Oxford only entered 91 per cent of its academics for assessment, while Cambridge entered 98 per cent. Oxford should have come third. But we shouldn't worry too much about precisely which came top: the most important thing is, the ratings confirm what we have always known: not even the best Oxbridge brains can come up with an answer everyone accepts.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Labour props up elective dictatorship

Sir: Yesterday I believed that the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights was one of the reasons why a Blair government might be preferable to Major government. Today I learnt "Labour looks less liberal as power looms", 18 December) that, under Labour, when judges discover a breach of the convention all that will happen is that "consideration will need to be given by the government of the day and Parliament as to what action should be taken". This is boringly similar to the words of the old royal veto: "The King will take thought of it."

The purpose of constitutional: reform is to control an elective dictatorship whose power has got out of hand. Constitutional reform undertaken without this motive is no more than better dressing of a shop window. It remains true, as Alan Beith said in 1991, that the Liberal Democrats are the only party willing to come into power committed to reducing their own Earl RUSSELL House of Lords London SW1

Sir. As the Labour prime minister responsible for the winter of discontent", Lord Callaghan ("Labour fooled by the Tories, Callaghan says", 19 December) should be the last person to advise Tony Blair on New Labour's future

relationship with the trade unions. If Labour gets defeated at the next general election, it will not be due to what the New Labour has or has not done, but because the Tories will, for the nth time, show the television footage of the "winter of discontent" and the unforgettable images of London streets littered with mountains of putrefying garbage and cemeteries with unburied bodies.

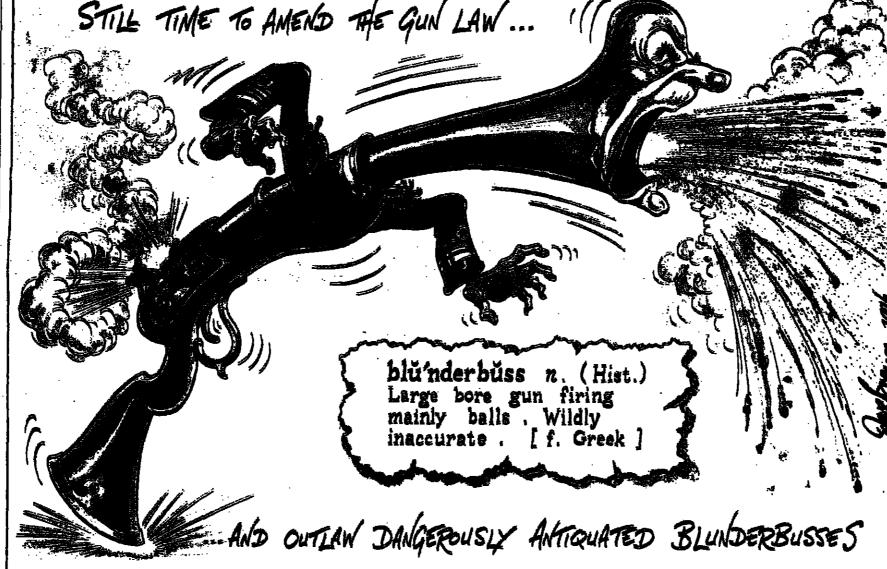
Thank you, Lord Callaghan, for vour advice! M RIAZ HASAN

Sir: Yet again a crack at Slough this time in a millennium suggestion that it be destroyed (Letters, 18 December). Your correspondent R P Heinemann must never have been here - or had his or her eyes shut. How else is it possible to miss our spectacular Richard Rogers-designed Learning Resource Centre at Thames Valley University (featured in your pages), our 14th-century manor house, Upton Court, the exquisite St Michael's Church and a host of other buildings - ordinary maybe, but not evesores.

Slough does have its less attractive areas, and too many people live in overcrowded homes. The solution is not wholesale destruction but the release of housing capital money to allow councils to build again. This will only happen when we have a Labour government - which will be an occasion for real celebration. FIONA MacTAGGART Labour Parliamentary Spokesperson Slough, Berkshire

Our jackpot

Sir: My husband and I have come up with a way of winning £2 on the lottery every week. We write our numbers down without buying a ticket and then pray the numbers don't come up. YVELAINE ARMSTRONG. Narberth, Pembrokeshire



Peril of fat in the wrong places

Sir: Whilst one might understand the need for Jerome Burne to offer some Christmas cheer to the "circumferentially challenged", the assertion that being far is healthy is a good example of how a superficial acquaintance with complex biological data can lead to wholly incorrect conclusions ("Something

Big", 16 December).
Scientific evidence strongly supports the view that being overweight is associated with an increased risk of various diseases, including coronary heart disease (CHD), the second leading cause of mortality in this country. This is primarily because obesity

is associated with various adverse metabolic factors such as high blood pressure (hypertension), high blood cholesterol, physical inactivity and diabetes - all powerful, independent risk factors for CHD. In other words, being overweight is of importance because of its association with other risk factors; if these factors are absent, being overweight is very much less important.

The problem is that a simple measurement of body weight provides only very crude information. Recent evidence suggests that the way in which fat is distributed may be the more important factor. There is an important distinction between android (central) obesity and gynaecoid (peripheral) obesity.

Gynaecoid obesity is associated with an exaggeration of the normal feminine fat distribution, ie fat deposited on the hips, thighs and buttocks. Although women spend a huge amount of time, money and

inert and not associated with a significantly increased risk.

In contrast, android or central obesity, the most common manifestation of which is the promberant belly in men, is strongly associated with a variety of coronary risk factors, including high blood cholesterol, diabetes and hypertension. So the key issue is not simply whether one is carrying too much fat, but where the fat is distributed. Both Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell were good examples of "voluptuous" women, with low-risk peripheral fat distribution.

Being fat is never healthy. The only comfort is that people can be fat in different ways, some of which are harmful and others of which are

Dr DAVID ASHTON Cardiac Medicine. National Heart & Lung Institute, Imperial College School of Medicine University of London

The best ways to treat trauma

Sir: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not intend to fund two police forces to provide post-incident trauma counselling for their officers ("Police to get post-disaster counselling", 17 December)

However, HSE hopes to commission a critical review of research on the management of

effort in trying to rid themselves of this fat, it is actually metabolically producing general advice for all is renewable energy anywhere near competitive. employers. We are currently considering a number of proposals including one from Glasgow Caledonian University, which is

currently working with Strathclyde Police and the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Post-incident trauma can affect not only those caught up in major disasters but also employees in day to-day incidents such as workplace accidents. Guidance for employers on how best to manage postincident trauma will not only help employees, it will also minimise the

costs incurred by both employers and the National Health Service. Dr PETER GRAHAM Director of Health Directorate Health and Safety Executive

Pay fair price for green electricity

Sir: The decision to offer a subsidy to schools to install an array of photovoltaic (PV) cells under the Scolar scheme is to be commended ("Solar power gets a plug in 100 schools, 14 December).

However, this must be seen in the context of the adverse market conditions under which renewable energy operates. The buying-in rate for individual private generators is roughly one-fifth the price paid for electricity by the average domestic consumer. Only when heavily subsidised by the non-fossil-fuel obligation (NFFO)

At the same time the NFFO is heavily biased towards wind power. This is a misuse of the NFFO, since it is effectively subsidising the electricity generators by enabling them to avoid paying a market price to private generators. It ensures that private generation is inherently uneconomical, helping to secure the energy utilities monopoly position.
It is another instance in which

the UK stands apart from its EU partners, who offer market rates to private generators. The NFFO was designed to promote the development and wider use of renewable energy whilst also lowering energy demand, for example by making low-energy lightbulbs more comparable in cost

to conventional bulbs. In the long term this penalising of private generators could backfire on the energy utilities. As the technology of PVs etc improves and their cost falls, and as storage technology develops, private generators will find it costeffective to be independent of the grid. Already there are energyautonomous buildings in existence which should sound alarm bells in the marble halls of the energy

utilities. If we are serious about curbing carbon emissions, this is an anomaly which must be rectified as a matter of urgency.
Professor PETER F SMITH Chairman, RIBA Environment and Planning Committee

Save Skye from helicopters

Sir: Mountains provoke strong emotions in many people. The proposed development of tourist helicopter flights in the Cuillin of Skye ("Skye distress at threat from the skies", 12 December) has raised passions in the mountaineering community that I have rarely seen.

Although small in height, these

mountains create the sense of being in a truly wild place that is both dramatic and very beautiful. Many thousands of people who love the Cuillin will be outraged at the possibility of helicopters being allowed to destroy such a rare and precious environment for the sake of profit. This is the ultimate in 'quick fix" tourism, and this case will set a precedent which will determine whether our most precious landscapes really are safe rom exploitation.

We can only hope that passion will be enough to save these mountains. JEREMY BARLOW Access & Conservation Officer British Mountaineering Council Manchester

Restart the week Sir: Could we not start by sorting out

a single calendar for the millennium? (letters, 18 December) For some years now one version has portrayed the week as Sunday to Saturday, the other Monday to Sunday. There is no earthly reason why all those perverse printers cannot create the same week. ROBERT VINCENT Andover, Hampshire

fear growing old Sir: Your correspondents (16

Gays need not

December) have missed the point of the Anti-Gay debate. The issue is how to make gay/homosexual life meaningful. It is to do with ageing in a subculture that is dominated by (white middle-class) men who seem to spend their whole lives in discos, bars and gyms.

Mainstream gay culture's reaction to the issues Anti-Gay addresses is understandable because it reminds these folks that life under 30 is not infinite and that the failure to provide meaning for ourselves for the time after 30 is crucial.

There are too many young people who have decided to "live fast and die young because they cannot fathom the idea of being gay and old. Aids educators will know what I am talking about. The point is not getting a life but getting a meaningful life. Current gay culture effectively creates a void filled with drugs, discos and gyms but fails to address these issues.

Despite this, I'll stick to being gay because I will not accept the box the medical profession invented for people like myself some hundred years ago. UDO SCHUKLENK Preston, Lancashire

Sir: As a gay man and a lover of real cask beer I take exception to Desmond Coughlan's letter on gay bars and good beer (18 December). Maybe his local bar does sell a good pint of Guinness - which is a stout, not a beer anyway - but it is still fizzy pasteurised stuff. There is a strong element of macho lagerdrinking in some strands of gay culture but this should not detract from the fact that there are plenty of lesbians and gay men who like cask-conditioned beer.

The fact that to drink it we have to go to bars that welcome people of all genders and sexualities provided they like a decent, wellkept pint - is probably no bad thing either. Neither lesbians and gays nor Camra members need ghettoising or closeting. KEITH FLETT London N17

Sir: I had thought that The Independent would be spared the attentions of that busy band of correspondents who believe that the phrase "get a life" is both the height of wit and the ultimate rebuttal. Imagine my horror when I discovered Dr Alan Bullion's missive of 16 December. I beg you, do not permit Bullion and his fellow cliché-grinders room on your letters page. One fears that if thus encouraged they will never gain the wisdom to take their own advice. CPRESTON London

Tory barbarians

Sir: You argue that Labour party policy on education is superior to that of the Tories, who are (you sardonically suggest) committed to grammar-school black gowns, canes and Latin verbs (leading article, 16 December).

Really? I think you need to versa your vice and mutate your mutanda. Mr Blunkett announced only recently that he hopes to develop specialist language schools in every area. so that Latin and Greek (and a larger range of modern languages) can be encouraged. Tory educationists have been no friends to the great ancient languages. DI PETER JONES The Co-ordinating Committee for Newcastle upon Tyne

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Out of touch by definition

Dukes don't mix with ordinary people, they just shake hands with them, so we can hardly be surprised when Prince Philip fails to understand their worries about a gun culture, says Paul Vallely

ou have the advantage of me. By now you will have heard - or had the opportunity to hear - the Duke of Edinburgh holding forth last night on Radio Five Live on the question of Dunblane and cricket bats.

Let me insist at once, I would not have wanted to listen to what he said before writing this, even if the BBC had kindly sent me an advance tape. (Presumably they sent one to somebody to judge by the row in vesterday's newspapers). I have decided rather to enter into the spirit of the man himself, who makes a habit of wading in joyously unprepared and ill-informed, his prejudices streaming behind him like unfurled banners in a glorious old film of royalty as it should be.

Let me declare my own prejudice. I rather like the curmudgeonly old cove with his impatience, his lack of tact and his unerring ability to delivery an epithet of unfailing political incorrectness in any given situation. He also keeps us journalists in work, prompting *The Sun* to one of its more inspired offerings: his characterisation of the Chinese as "slitty-cyed" on a visit to Peking was headlined "The Great Wally of China".

Having said that, perhaps the time has come when the 75-year-old Duke ought to be advised to alter the description in his passport under Occupation from "Prince of the Royal Household" to "retired". Let me explain why.

I met the Duke of Edinburgh once. I met him,

though I'm not sure that he met me. I was the lowliest reporter in The Times newsroom when the Queen and the Duke came to visit. Worthies were lined up to meet the visitors. I was told to get on with my work. As a consequence, when Philip arrived I was the only person in the entire newsroom actually typing anything. The Duke, naturally enough, ignored the official line-up and

"You have to be able to type pretty fast, I suppose," he pronounced. It was not the most profound of conversational gambits. Had I of his wife's subjects which is significant. been the oldest occupant of the newsroom doubtless he would have said: "You must have seen some changes in your time." As consort to the monarch he is doomed to a lifetime of these

Who can wonder that from time to time something indiscreet pops out? And whenever something does he can rely on us loyal subjects of the fourth estate to re-chronicle his greatest hits from 50 years of public life.

He began in 1947 when, newly engaged to the heir presumptive, he asked a railway signalman about his promotion prospects; on being told it was a case of dead men's shoes Philip replied: you all descended from pirates?" and said in bad factor of recession.

Canada, "We don't come here for our health. We can think of other ways of enjoying ourselves."

Then there was his observation at the height of the recession in 1981: "Everybody was saying we must have more leisure. Now they are com-plaining they are unemployed." In 1993, visiting Lockerbie, where 11 people on the ground had been killed by wreckage from the PanAm jumbo-jet bomb, he tactlessly observed: "People usually say that after a fire it is water damage that is the worst. We are still trying to dry out Windsor Castle." And in 1995 he asked a Scottish driving instructor: "How do you keep the natives off the booze long enough to pass the test."

In part it is tactlessness. In part it is that he does not give a bugger (sorry, ducal language is infectious). But in the main it is that he is, almost by definition, out of touch with the mood of the British public. The Duke does not mix with ordinary society; he just shakes hands with it.

Take what he said about Dunblane last night (OK, so I have read a transcript). "Look," he said, "if a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which he could do very easily, I mean, are you going to ban cricket bats?"

To which Beverley Birnie, whose six-year-old son Matthew survived the shootings at Dunblane, replied: "How many people can you kill in three-and-a-half minutes with a cricket bat? It is not the same as an automatic gun. You have to be realistic. I suspect he [the Duke] is coming from a world where guns are part of his life. But I am from a world where I have never seen a gun, never held one. I never had a reason to think about them."

Guns are as everyday a part of Prince Philip's life as cricket bats, probably more so. It is his failure to make the leap in imagination from his

t is a failure of his age – the House of Lords was last week full of other elderly aristocrats opposing gun law reform with anecdotes about their boyhood relationships with their gamekeepers. It is a failure of his class - none of those surrounding the royals seemed able to explain to them the distaste of the general public at the "blooding" of Prince William when he killed his first stag recently. It is a failure of the institution of monarchy itself, with its desperate attempt to combine tradition with modernity so that its modern image seeks to encompass pomp, concern about the environment and the loval subjects of the Cayman Islands, "Aren't when the rest of us were immured in the feel-

Who but a royal could be surprised that gaps open up between public and courtly perceptions, with the public complaining when no royal attended the 1989 Lockerbie memorial service or visited the devastated centre of Manchester after the 1995 IRA bomb. Or that the Duke's son Charles is bewildered when he confesses on television to adultery and finds that the public give him no Brownie points for honesty. Or that this week people find faintly risible the fact that his other son Andrew has been despatched to Manila for talks with President Fidel Ramos on military and economic ties between the Philippines and

Britain. Randy Andy? Of course paradox has always been part of the charm of the energetic man who unhappily finds himself permanently defined by a wife and son more important than himself.

Philip was the foreign prince whom the old-Etonian courtiers of King George VI described as "rough, ill-tempered, uneducated and probably would be unfaithful" to the then Princess Elizabeth (interesting that for all the dirt-digging of the tabloids, and the predations of the US biographer Kitty Kelly. no evidence of his muchrumoured infidelity has ever been produced).

He is the president of the World Wide Fund for Nature who shoots things and supports the legalisation of the wory trade. He is the tireless worker for a vast array of charities from playing fields for children to care for ex-servicemen - and

yet he is popularly assumed to be careless of the sensitivities of individual human beings. In the end it was the cricket bat which did for him. The full text of his radio remarks are a sensible enough contribution to the debate on gun control which the House of Lords has chosen to extend after the Bill's swift passage through the Commons. He made the point that the members gerous than members of a golf club. He argued that there are always going to be unstable people who are going to do monstrous things but that "taking it out on the rest of the population". is not necessarily the most rational of reactions. He insisted that his kind of shooting - game shooting - was a social activity which helped to maintain a balance in the environment. And he warned that laws made in electioneering haste may be repented in more dispassionate leisure.

gularly inapt and inept. "To think of the Queen coming up here and laying a wreath at our school and then hearing her husband say something like this sickens me, responded Ann Pearston, one of the anti-gun Snowdrop Campaign organisers.

However, it was the grotesque piece of imagery he conjured - of a child being beaten

to death with a cricket bat - which was so sin-

The politicians, of course, have had a fieldday. Tony Blair was characteristically Janus- is over. Most people understand the arguments faced: "He is entitled to his views and obviously we in the Labour Party have a different position ties with the common good. They accept that on that," he told BBC1's Breakfast News.

attended the same Dunblane school, said on the BBC 's Today programme: "The views of one elderly aristocrat, based on a completely crazy view of a comparison between a cricket bat and a rapid-fire handgun, is not going to deflect Par-liament from doing what it believes to be right in the interests of public safety."

But he did not restrict himself to dismissing Prince Philip as "an eccentric individual" whose comments had damaged his credibility enormously. He added: "I think these remarks are going to be counter-productive, because they will remind people that this argument is still going on and the House of Lords may well be planning to inflict defeats on the Government

It was not just the Duke of Edinburgh's inability to resist the colourful phrase and dramatic comparison which is most revealing. It is his inability - like that of his peers in the Lords -

to grasp that for the British public the argument about the need to balance the rights of minorimost gun owners are responsible individuals.

But most of the public, having no personal

The shadow Scottish Secretary George vested interests in the gun world, have performed Robertson put his finger on the real a risk/benefit analysis and its conclusion is clear. guns, public opinion is clear, contribute towards a wider culture of violence in contemporary Britain. And events over the past year - from Dunblane, to the campaign by Frances Lawrence, the widow of the murdered head-master, to the whole host of incidents which daily soil the pages of our fear-hungry newspapers -

have persuaded people that it is time to act.

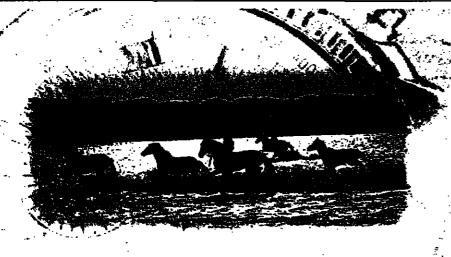
Perhaps only a gumman could not see that.

And Prince Philip if he is anything is a gum man. Only two months ago he was provoking an outcry by declaring shooting "an intelligent leisure activity" for children. Over the past 30 years the Duke of Edinburgh has shot, it is estimated, a tiger, two crocodiles, 60 wild boar, countless stags, rabbits and ducks and at least 30,000 pheasants. Perhaps if he had restricted himself to clubbing them to death with a cricket bat the world would be a safer place.

has failed to make the leap of from his the one occupied by his wife's

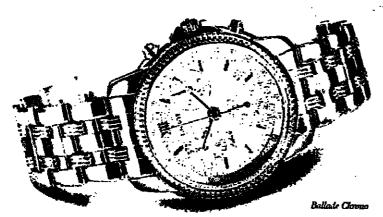
subjects





world

The world is becoming smaller. Distances are diminishing. No matter how varied different cultures may be, we are all citizens of the blue planet. In 142 countries all around the glabe, people rely on Tissat watches. For instance, on the Tissot Ballade Chrono: enticing elegance harmoniously combined with a sporty touch. Watch Tissot and watch the world.



ert webstorment (117-13 nf (nf.)

have a large staff here at

The Independent whose
task it is to constantly there! You're working well today, lads!) In fact, the large and

monitor the English language for changes of meaning and to covertly insert split infinitives into my articles to gratuitously give offence to over-sensitive language mavens.
Incidentally, I first came across this word maven in a

column in the Herald Tribune by the American writer Russell Baker, and finally discovered, after buying and selling a lot of dictionaries. that it was a Yiddish word meaning expert or connoisseur. I have since then seen it quite often in columns by Russell Baker, but have never heard the word used in my life. Whenever I have tried to use it, people either ignore me or say, "Mabel? What Mabel? I don't know anyone called Mabel!" So much for the supposed joys and advantages of a rich vocabulary. All my life I had been encouraged to believe that increased word power was a benefit. The opposite is true. All that is achieved

by a rich vocabulary is to

gradually isolate you from

your fellow humans.

(Another split infinitive

industrious staff I have here at The Independent to help monitor changes in language inform me that our vocabulary is, if anything, becoming poorer, with many words being marginalised and ghettoised, and suffering income deprivation.

They point, for instance, to

the word "personality". You may find this hard to believe, but the word "personality" for a long time meant nothing more or less than "personality" - in other words, it referred to people's character, and by extension to people who had a lot of character. "He's got real personality!" we would say.
Or, "He's a real personality!" meaning that he was flamboyant or magnetic or charismatic in some way. Now, however, it has been devalued by the BBC and others in their strange use of the word in their Personality of the Year competitions. notably the BBC Sports Personality of the Year competition, which is traditionally won by the sports person who has the



Miles **Kington**

least visible personality, and whose collected interviews would make a cure for

Curious, I asked my large and industrious staff if they had any other examples of words being shunted down a linguistic siding like this, and after they had raised their eyebrows at my old-fashioned use of railway imagery ("Are there any sidings left in` Britain? Does anything get shunted into them?" says the pencilled note from my large and industrious staff. "We strongly advice you to use car-linked imagery from now on."), after that rap on the knuckles, they gave me a

short list of doubtful word usage which I found so thought-provoking that I thought I would park it on the forecourt and see if the public wanted to test-drive it. Here we go then. Quote There was a time

when "quote" was a slangy

word for "quotation". The Oxford Book of Quotes, we would say. Either way it referred to a phrase or saving or line of verse that had become so well-known it had entered the language. Nowadays, "quote" simply means anything that any celebrity has said recently, interesting or not. "I have a quote from you a couple of days ago," says Ned Sherrin to a guest on Loose Ends, and it doesn't mean that he has encountered a thoughtprovoking phrase that has gone into the language during Friday, it simply means that Sherrin's large and industrious staff of researchers have found a line in an interview with the guest that may well bear reheating and re-serving. even though the guest invariably doesn't remember saying his or her "quote".

Period Period furniture or period houses could,

formerly, come from any period as long as it was recognisably of that period. Now, the word applies only to TV drama and always refers to Georgian times. The word "costume" is going the same way.

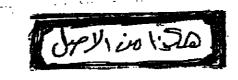
Lottery Used to mean a

risky gamble in a bad sense. like driving on black ice. entertainment that gives the Government an excuse for not supporting the arts. Guru Used to mean an Eastern wise man. Now it refers to someone who goes on TV and talks about modern fashions, usually

with the addition of "Style". Celebrity Used to mean someone who was very famous. Now means a) someone who used to be famous, OR b) someone who has been on Call My Bluff at lunch-time, OR c) someone who has played a part in a TV soap opera OR d) someone who doesn't actually win awards himself but gets to open the envelope containing awards

More dodgy words soon. including input, synergy, dysfunctional, lad, etc!

for other people.



Sweden's welfare meltdown has lessons for Labour

TOCKHOLM - On the surface all is glitter. The city is dressed for Christmas with fairy lights, the streets are full of evening shoppers, and the restaurants are packed with office parties singing (actually rather doleful) communal ditties. But the Swedes are worried.

They are worried about unemployment, for despite three years of decent growth, headline unemployment is still nearly 8 per cent, and if you add in state-paid, make-work schemes to keep people off the register, it would really be about 15 per cent. They are worried about social exclusion: the way the gap has widened between professional dual-income families and blue-collar no-income families. They are worried about stagnation in the standard of living even of people in jobs, for despite economic growth, consumption is only inching upwards: less that I per cent last year, about 1.5 per cent this.

"People of my age," ex-plained a 35-year-old profes-sional, "cannot earn enough to think of buying a second home. So we all have to spend our holidays in our parents' ones." In the land that 25 years ago was indubitably the richest in the world, this is a hardship indeed. To cap all this, the Swedes

are worried that the government, despite the advice of an official commission that looked at the proposition, might join the single currency. This gives a certain solidarity with Britain, for Swedes vie with Brits as the most sceptic of the European family of nations. According to the polls there is a solid majority against joining the single cur-rency, and perhaps more surprisingly since Sweden has only been a member of the EU for

less than two years, an apparent majority who wished she hadn't joined in the first place. But there is a crucial difference. In Sweden, opposition to Brussels comes mainly from the left, not the right. The fear is not the British worry that the EU will impose onerous regulations that will undermine the competitiveness of industry, but rather that EMU membership will require deregulation, particularly of the

Beyond this there is a wider fear that the closer integration into the EU will undermine. Even with enormous public spending - above the still-elaborate social security system, of which most Swedes remain understandably proud. There is a deep fear that this system, the most extreme version of it in Western Europe, will have to be cut back in a much more radical way than it has to date. True, there have been cutbacks in the funding of the welfare state, cuts in hospitals and day-care nurseries. True, opponents claim the pruning bas protected the administrators while hitting the front-line staff, a familiar concern. But it is still remarkably universal.

The problem is affording the welfare state in an ageing society. There are interesting implications here for a future UK Labour government. The practical question is this: can a



Hamish McRae

An ageing population, joblessness and low growth are forcing a left-wing government to make painful cuts

lion people live in the country.

At any one point, 6.7 million of those are net recipients from the social welfare system. The other 2.1 million pay in. Self-evidently, they have to pay in proportionately more per head, and these payers, at a different stage of their life, may well become recipients. But in practical woring terms the arithtical voting terms the arithmetic is always in favour of higher spending. Only when the government cannot borrow more, because the interest rates become prohibitive as happened in the early 1990s, is reform forced on it. As a result the cuts imposed by the previ-ous centre-right coalition have

> Opposition to these cuts has been mounting in recent weeks. The government faces something of a populist rebellion. Helena Rajaniemi, a woman with no previous political pro-file—"an unmarried mother of four" said a friend who is one

largely been maintained by the

present government.

Sweden at the moment, re-

fashion a welfare system more effectively than a government

of the right, because it has more sympathy towards its aims and is therefore more trusted?

The answer seems to be "maybe not". There is in Sweden a powerful arithmetical

problem that confronts any

government seeking to push through reforms. Some 8.8 mil-

lion people live in the country.

of the 2.1 million net payers - led a demon-stration of 4,000 in the Stockholm streets which received enormous publicity. There is a conflict within the labour movement, which in general supports the government. It is hard for the outsider to judge, but if anything the opposition to reform seems to be gaining ground. The harsh reality is that the government has

no option but to continue cutting its deficit: the discipline of the financial markets applies here as elsewhere. As the country continues to age - fewer people of working age, more pen-sioners - the underlying tax/spend balance will continue to move against the people. Explain-ing this, even to an electorate as well-educated as Sweden's, is desperately difficult. I suspect a UK Labour government would find itself in

exactly the same bind. This leads to an uncomfortable conclusion. 50 per cent of GDP - you cannot stop rising inequality. A lot of people in Sweden, and not just on the left, are deeply concerned about this, for Sweden's easy egalitarianism is something special and attractive. If you cannot spend money to fix problems, what do you do? Boost skills? Change behaviour? And if that is not enough, what then? How Sweden will continue to come to terms with this conundrum matters to us all

One idea being mooted here is that they may start to rebuild the family - to take back from the state some of the functions of the family which it has assumed over the two previous generations. This is not a moral agenda, but simply a financial necessity.

What's wrong with the BBC today

he Today programme is the flagship of the BBC, the bearer of its standards and so the slot that politicians fight to dominate. It speaks with the voice of the BBC, often setting the national news agenda and yesterday it featured the Director General

For that reason, if we wish to analyse the state of the BBC's soul this is the place to shine the torch into its eye. What better time to probe the BBC than in the week it has secured almost all it expected in its new licence fee deal? As it happens, yesterday's Today programme presented an uncomfortable snapshot of some of the ideo-logical problems that now face the BBC.

As a former employee, I have many close friends in News and Current Affairs and I know how wearisome outside carping can be. I supported John Birt's reforms: he saved the BBC from bankruptcy, which would have delivered i into the hands of its many political foes. It is difficult to criti-cise the BBC even mildly with-out risking joining the ranks of those enemies.

So what was wrong with yesterday's *Toda*y programme? First there was the calamitous Personality of the Year vote, which should have been aban-doned long ago. The Blair vote-rigging debacle exposed what everyone always knew: this farrago only tests which interest groups have the fastest fingers on their telephone buttons. The list of candidates is long on victims, short on sense. John Major? Anne Atkins (the airhead right-wing evangelical actress currently the Telegraph's agony aunt)? Apart from the Burmese opposition leader, the rest are all crime victims or their representatives, a sympathy voic.

You could say this was just unlucky foolishness. But solemnly allowing this charade to proceed speaks to a deeper malaise. The BBC, as national broadcaster has to be neutral, it thinks. To be sure it must treat each political party fairly, but that does not mean it has to be neutral on everything else that moves and breathes. It should not be neutral between absurd arguments and serious ones. It is not "fairness" to give nonsense equal airtime in the name of balance. The dreadful "Thought for the Day" slot was at its worst yesterday, with Cristina Odone, Catholicism's answer to Anne Atkins, pontificating on the sins of a film she badn't seen - the nemake of I olita.



Staff clamp their hands over their mouths and claim intellectual castration. And it shows in the output

In its lead story, the Today programme failed to play a single clip of the ducal gaffes and the court correspondent was as pompous as a palace apologist: if the Duke is out of touch, the BBC is sometimes not far behind. While the rest of the world spluttered with indignation or laughter (a good 40 per cent of Britons are now of republican bent), the sonorous BBC said gravely: "Damage has been done ... Being the man he is, he just gave a straight answer ... He feels, by the way, the press are only interested

and all his good work is usually forgotten." Where was the spontaneous ribaldry to be found everywhere else?

The lack of either spontanethe BBC's reporting, as journalism elsewhere these days offers lively interpretation. Bland statement of fact accompanied by two brief opposing soundbites of contradictory positions is not enough. In the great cacophany of voices and opinions all around us, the BBC house style is so safe as to be virtually silent - a nonwhen he causes controversy, player. It is a deadening, col-

not sustain its reporting for much longer. Asked for a view, BBC staff clamp their hands over their mouths and claim shows in the output. Intelligent reporters are reduced to empty ciphers, wasting their talents, patronising the audience and exuding caution.

ourless habit of mind that will

It would take bold leadership to dare to discard a straightjacket that has become as outdated as the radio announcers' dinner jackets. The BBC needs the self-confidence to breathe the fresh air of controversy

with a voice of its own. It is time to tell the politicians and the interest groups to go hang. Be brave. Otherwise the licence fee becomes an albatross, obliging the BBC to offend no one and

say nothing.
In recent years the BBC has been preoccupied with its own survival. Cannons on the left blasted Birt as a destroyer of old BBC traditions (often thinly disguised self-indulgences). More dangerous cannons on the right tried to dismantle the BBC altogether, sell off bits and keep only a tiny specialist sub-scription service. Over past years (but quieter of late) the Murdoch press has bayed loud-est for BBC blood, pursuing Murdoch's television interests.

The Director General on yesterday's Today programme was in Cheshire Cat mode. He was pleased with the licence fee outcome, not all he wanted, but enough. He was also reasonably pleased with this week's revised DTI regulations governing Rupert Murdoch's digital settop box. Not all he wanted, but considerably better than was proposed two months ago before all the public fuss. Try as he might James Naughtie could not get John Birt to say the words "Rupert Murdoch", let alone express alarm at the tycoon's burgeoning media

But now the licence fee is won, the BBC is secure, who-ever wins the election. Now is the time for the BBC to forget the politicians and take up its mantle as defender of our cultural life. That means confronting the power of Murdoch, as the greatest cultural threat. For even if (which remains deeply in doubt) Oftel successfully regulates fair access to the digital future, Murdoch's overwhelming dominance in sport and movies, what he calls his "battering-ram", will increasingly batter the BBC in the coming years.

Only the BBC, free of commercial interest, can take on

this role convincingly. The political parties are paralysed by Murdoch's command of 40 per cent of the press. Who else is to take up cudgels against intellectual castration. And it Murdoch's predatory newsp per price war, financed by a cross-media ownership that would have been banned in the United States? If the BBC marches into controversy on issues like these, so much the better. For what is the point of the BBC's new hard-earned political independence if it does not have the confidence to use it bravely for the good of the nation?

To catch a thief

Andrew Brown reflects on the strange case of the stolen headphones, and its hi-tech dénouement

ine months ago, a court case was conceived: one of the cleaners stole a pair of headphones off my desk at The Independent. He was captured in the act by a video camera. What followed was an extraordinary demonstration of the ways in which hi-tech offices are constantly subverted by human ingenuity. Even the headphones were part of this subversion, since I use them to restore the privacy that an open-plan office otherwise strips away.

The case finally came to court

last week. By the time it reached the court, I had forgotten even in which month the incident had taken place. I had only reported it because I wanted to be able to claim for the fairly expensive headphones on insurance; the last thing I expected was to be told that a culprit had been caught. But the video never

sleeps.

The cameras that lurk in toughened black-glass bubbles, like the compound eyes of insects, cost, I am told, £5,500 each and are capable of alarming feats of technological sophistication, such as tracking automatically the movements of tagged equipment through the office. When I complained to the office security people, they sped through a fortnight's worth of tape, watching for a flicker of movement at my desk.

Within a couple of days they told me that they had seen the moment of the theft; and that the police had arrested the culprit. Then I heard nothing, for months and months, until a young policeman took a statement from me. The cleaner had pleaded not guilty, despite the video evidence, and the further evidence of the electronic identity cards with which the doors in this office complex must be opened, which had placed him on the floor at the right moment.

The next shock was to learn that he had elected to go for jury trial. The headphones he stole were worth about £50. Had he admitted their theft, he would probably have been cautioned and released with no further action taken.

He had no previous form and was 25, approaching the age at which young men grow out of

> He had put his finger in the machine, and it had torn his whole arm off

crime. By denying his act, in the teeth of video evidence, he was setting himself up for a conviction and criminal record. A 25-yearold black man with a conviction for theft is not going to find honest work again easily.

He had put his finger in the machine, and it had torn his whole arm off, I said to one of the policemen as we waited in the cafeteria of Southwark Crown Court. It is a huge, purpose-built brick fortress on the Thames, which seemed grotesquely disproportionate to the crime. But by then the theft of my £50 headphones had drawn in two police officers, two lawyers, and the head of security from the Mirror Group, which houses our offices. All of us were hanging around,

waiting for a courtroom. We had been summoned to attend on a particular day, but no one could be certain when a courtroom would become available. There were 16 courtrooms to choose from, all fitted with video equipment, but all were occupied.

We waited and gossiped all morning with the legal costs ticking up like a taxi meter on Concorde. The lawyers went off to examine the video evidence, again. The cameras use a special high-definition format, with which the police had been able to see every detail of the crime. But then it turned out that this had not survived translation to the more common VHS format. A fresh tape had to be watched.

We broke off for lunch, taxi meters still ticking, but when I returned the whole thing had been solved. It turned out that only two of the courtrooms were fitted with high-definition equipment that would show more than an anonymous arm snaking down to my headphones and whisking them into an anonymous coat. Neither would be free that day. Without the extra fancy equipment there was nothing that would satisfy a jury.

So the cleaner had agreed to accept a caution. There would be no trial, and no conviction. though he would admit his guilt. All that effort by the police, the security men, the lawyers had been almost completely wasted. Nine months of bureaucratic labour had brought forth a mouse but at least the mouse was free, I thought, as I watched him scampering across the cafeteria where he too had been waiting, with more patience than we had

The chic shawl that's to die for

Woolly for you? The llama family's coats are coveted

adeleine Trehearne sat on the floor of her daughter's playroom surrounded by tens of thousands of pounds-worth of caprine luxury and said: "Of course some people come and ask: But it's just a pink scarf - why does it cost £500?' I have to be very patient

This, unfortunately, was exactly the question I was about to ask. "Why? Well, we don't rip anyone off and these are

pashmina, she says patiently. You can't compare them to woollen scarfs. That's like comparing purest silk to a pair of cotton underpants at Marks & Spencer."

The style guru Lucia van der Post has decreed that the pashmina is "the most chic shawl around town," and if you have to ask, then be careful how you do. It seems that something called the shatoosh used to be. It was to die for ask the antelope that supplied the fine and rare fibres for the cloth and has since become

endangered. Well, at least someone had the the political divides of strife-torn kashmir? sense to quit selling them before Sting made

a record. But there is still pashmina or even the odd vicuma to shrug into. Pashmina is made from the hair combed from the underbelly of the capra hircus (it means "hairy little goat") that lives in highest Kashmir. "This skill is unique to the Kashminis and they will not show you how they do the weaving," says Ms Trehearne, who sells direct from her Hampstead house and whose other career is as an English liter-

ature academic. To find the vicuña, you have to go halfway around the world to the Puna - the cold South American steppe. Down to only a few hundred in the mid-Sixties, the

small animal related to the alpaca and llama has made a healthy enough comeback to be back from the brink and back on the shelf at Harrods. A small shawl is £849, a large one £1,949. Why? Well this is no ordinary wild

ruminant. The Incas sacrificed them on a fairly regular basis, but then they had some one million to cull from. We can blame Pizarro, who plundered herds for New World silk and began a trend that didn't end until the Sixties

trade ban. Now there are 160,000 vicum but, if you count them in ounces of fleece, that is still not many. Each produces only eight ounces every two years (compared to six to eight pounds per year by the merino sheep). An overcoat requires a veritable herd (25 to 30 of them).

It is hard to tell which is more politically correct. The fleece from an animal given special permission to be shorn by the endangered species watchdog CITES, or goats scampering across

Who needs fur when you can play New Age one-upmanship at this sort of level?

Back at Ms Trehearne's house, my knees are now molly-swaddled in pashmina. "Isn't it warm? It's like a thermal vest. You can hatch an egg in one, though my greengrocer said that is a very expensive way to hatch an egg."

She unfurls one covered in the tiny stitches of a master embroiderer. "Of course, something like this is very expensive -we want £4,000 for it - but then again it took one man three years to do." Suddenly, Marks & Spencer seems very far away indeed.

Ann Treneman

Send a baby box to Bosnia this winter

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not what you'd think of giving someone. But for an impoverished mother in Bosnia trying to keep her child safe from infection, the basic essentials inside one of our baby boxes would mean the world. Children's Aid Direct will deliver your box directly into the hands of mothers in Bosnia many of whom will be living in war-darnaged housing in very basic conditions this winter. Please send a baby box to Bosnia this winter - and help a

With love from a friend... Cell 0990 600610 now to tell us how many body boxes you would like to send.

OR please complete and return this form. Please send_____boby box(es) at £30 each on my behalf. l enclose a cheque for £ _____(total conount) made payable to

mother keep her baby safe.

_from my 🗀 Viso 🗀 Access 🗀 Switch

Last three digits of Switch card no. / / Switch issue no. / Expiry date / Signature Name (caps) Postcode

If you would like to send a message to a dasnion mother, please send it with your donotion and we will put

it in your boby box. Please send to: Children's Aid Direct, Dept 496, FREEPOST, Reading, R61 18R Registered chapty no. 803236.

Halifax

flotation

to cost

£400m

Banking Correspondent

The bill for merging Halifax Building Society with Leeds Permanent and next year's

planned £11bn stock market flotation will total more than

City lawyers, bankers and brokers will share bumper fees with Halifax estimating the bill

for flotation and the accompa-

nying conversion to being a

bill is restructuring costs asso-

ciated with the merger with

Leeds. The costs break down as

£208.9m for reorganising, re-

structuring and integrating the

two business, and £51.5m for the

loss on the disposal of fixed

assets, mainly property.

Halifax has already announced 1,200 job losses as

a result of merging the two head offices. It is also closing down

branches as there was consid-

erable overlap between the two

The society will not reveal the

precise details of the share

hand-outs to its 9 million mem-

bers until early next month

when its weighty transfer doc-ument about the flotation will

be sent out. The wording is be-

ing finalised with the Building

Societies Commission, the in-

The document will confirm

that the share bonus will take

the form of a flat distribution

and an additional variable

allocation of shares. The num-

ber of shares allocated will be

calculated based on the balance

in each member's account in

November 1994 - when the

flotation was first announced -

and on the day of the special

general meeting next February.

nounced results for the first nine

months of this year, showing an

underlying 5.9 per cent rise in

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Any attempts by BSkyB to un-

fairly control digital television

services to viewers through its

Halifax also yesterday an-

dustry regulator.

societies on the high street.

The remaining £260m of the

the exceptional costs for the

Leeds merger and partly for the

The society took a 9 per cent

share of net mortgage business

in the UK in the nine months. This compares with the 7 per

cent share in the first half,

ciety's decision to stay away from the highly competitive re-

mortgage market. But this is still well below its

20 per cent share of outstand-

While the cost of the con-

version is still only an estimate,

the Halifax has decided to take

a £69m charge during the nine-month period ending 31 Octo-

This covers the costs to be in-

curred up to the special general meeting at the Sheffield Arena

in February. The date of the

meeting, at which members will

vote on the conversion plan, has

Roughly half of the con-

version costs are due to com-

munication, according to a Halifax spokesman. This in-

cludes mail shots to the society's

members, producing and dis-tributing the 150-page transfer

document and a new advertis-

ing campaign.
The remainder of the costs

will include fees to Deutsche

Morgan Grenfell, the invest-

ment bank that is managing the

flotation. One analyst estimat-

ed that Deutsche would expect

to rake in around £45m in fees.

Lawyers could charge £30m

while stockbrokers will also

expect to receive fees of

building society to admit the cost is Alliance & Leicester

which put its bill at £58m, £10m

of which is due to postage costs.

Halifax's stock market value af-

ter flotation is estimated to be

3.7 times greater than Alliance

The only other converting

approximately £15m.

& Leicester's.

yet to be announced.

ig mortgage busine

which was depressed by the so-

FTSE SmallCap 2146 79

FTSE All-Share 1979 85

New York 6414.05

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new license conditions which give the regulator the ability to ban any moves by phone operators which he fears could be designed to thwart competi-tion. Judgement in the action is due this afternoon.

Though BT has accepted the new powers, which take effect from 31 December, the company has claimed it was obliged to challenge their legality in Though he accepted BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's satellite order to protect shareholders'

Mr Cruickshank is planning to introduce the same condition to regulate BSkyB and though he refused to speculate on what would happen if he lost the BT case, he admitted the fair trading proposals were "an imporit part" of yesterday's digital

TV guidelines.
BSkyB is working to start digital satellite services, offering up to 200 television channels, by late 1997. Contracts are likely to be awarded in the next few services. BT's lawyers have days to set-top box manufac-

been in the High Court this turers, including Sony and Pace week contesting the legality of Micro Technology. The move gives BSkyB a lu-crative headstart over the cable industry, which has pledged to

provide its own digital delivery

system and over the digital ter-restrial services planned by the BBC and ITV using the conventional TV ariel network. The boxes could be sold for £200 but will cost some £400 to make, with the difference subsidised by a Sky-organised con-

The vision spelt out by Mr Cruickshank involved the probability of just "one or two" sys-tems available to bring programmes into homes, but with separation of the technical delivery mechanism from pro-

gramme making. The guidelines oblige companies to provide separate accounts for the delivery businesses and to provide in-formation about prices. If they fail to comply, Offel, the watchdog, can make an enforcement



business & cit

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid

Preparations for the £1bn flotation of the Eurostar train operator, London and Continental Railways, are to begin early next year following its quicker-than-expected recovery from the hannel Tunnel fire last month

to 65 per cent of their level before the fire and Eurostar ex-pects traffic levels to be fully restored by January. Some 65,000 passengers will travel be-tween London, Paris and Brussels on the service this week and Eurostar expects traffic levels to rise to 100,000 in Christmas week with the help of special promotions such as a £69 same-

Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent

GKN, one of the UK's biggest

car components groups, was dealt a serious and unexpected

setback yesterday when a US

court ordered the company to pay up to \$554m (£331m) in

damages in a dispute over its

American car exhaust business.

stunned the company and ana-

lysts and could wipe out its cash

reserves and hit this year's final

The scale of the award

on track as traffic returns

the Government is committed to providing £1.4bn of taxpayers' funds. However, none of the public subsidies will be available until the 68-mile link is two-thirds

The flotation is expected to take place in early 1998 in conjunction with the raising of debt finance from an international

Dunn & Co calls in the receivers

Nigel Cope

The Christmas shopping season turned sour for one of Britain's best-known menswear retailers yesterday when Dunn & Co collapsed into receivership. Known for its slightly old-

fashioned image, sturdy suits, biazers and flannels. Dunn & Co's reliance on the formal wear market proved its undoing. Receivers KPMG blamed the collapse on poor trading and high debts.

The company was founded in 1886 as a hat seller and developed a string of high street stores. But since it was acquired by new owners in 1994 it has been losing more than £1m a year on sales of £25m. It has debts of £6.4m of which £4m is owed to unsecured creditors. Venture capitalists CinVen own

86 per cent of the company.

Dunn & Co has 130 shops and 429 staff. Its head office in Swansea employs a further 75 workers. The receivers hope to sell the group as a going con-cern and will be working to keep the shops trading over Christmas, which is its busiest time of the year. There are no immediate plans for shop closures or redundancies. KPMG's Paul Jeffries said: "It's a very well known name and the customer loyalty is tremendous. We expect there to be quite a bit of

He added that the group's problems arose through a decline in the formal wear market.

Dunn & Co was formed by George Arthur Dunn, a Quaker, 110 years ago. He had started his career selling hats on the streets on Birmingham. Forty years later he had 200 hat shops and as many franchises in other stores.

Though the stores have attracted a dusty reputation, Mr Dunn was a modern thinker. He was the first man in Britain to own a combine harvester. Before he died in 1939 he also opened a vegetarian hotel.

Prior to his death he established a trust to own and run the company for the benefit of the employees. The group has experienced problems before and was put up for sale in 1991. Then nearly 40 shops were sold to Hodges, a private Welsh group which kept the Dunn &

Co name going.
Since its sale to CinVen in 1994 it has been run by Anthony

need about 10 million passengers to break even. Mr Milk said the fund-raising day return fare. Before the fire Bechtel, was selected for the Passenger numbers are back 35 minutes off journey times, meaning that Brussels will be just exercise would be a challenging project earlier this year. on board a Eurotunnel freight one in the light of the experience shuttle, Eurostar was handling A further £1bn-£1.5bn of bank of the Channel Tunnel which cost a two-hour train ride away and Paris will be reached in 2 hours 100,000 passengers a week. debt will need to be raised while Eurotunnel £10bn to build and

The proceeds from the flotation will be used to fund the construction of the £2.8bn Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link into London's St Pancras station. LCR, whose shareholders include the Virgin Group, SBC
Warburg, National Express and mid-1998 and the line is schedfinance from an insyndicate of banks.

Adam Mills, chief

sharply on the news and despite some recovery in later trading closed down 35.5p at £10.09p.

The class action was brought

by small garage owners who op-

erated franchises for Meineke

Discount Muffler Shops,

GKN's retail car exhaust chain and a tiny part of the group's world-wide operations. The jury

in the district court in Charlotte,

North Carolina, agreed that

advertising commission pay-ments charged to the franchise

operators by Meineke's in-

US court tells GKN to pay out £331m They claimed GKN had de-frauded them by covering up the the damages are then tripled. Though the award against GKN is for \$398m, it could be as high payments after having pledged that the in-house advertising

agency would not make a profit or charge commission. Franchising is big business in the US but has attracted controversy in recent years over heavy-handed tactics by some multinational companies. The jury had used its discretion to award additional damages on top of the original claim for \$31m to cover the commission

as \$554m. A spokesman for the com-

pany said he was shocked by the announcement and said GKN would launch an appeal against the final judgment, expected in January. "All the advice we had been getting was that we had a very strong case and that advice still stands as far as we're concerned. We're confident we'll win through on appeal, which

that meeting the treaty's target

"depends not only on the res-

olute implementation of fiscal

consolidation plans, but also on

the likely course of interest

The speed with which coun-

tries succeed in moving to-

wards the Maastricht limits will

determine how sluggish the EU

economies are next year. The

report foresees the recovery as

being "relatively modest" be-cause of efforts to close the gap between government spending

and revenues. It predicts that

unemployment rates on the

Continent will scarcely budge

from their current high levels.

main European economies to

grow faster next year than this,

admitting that their perfor-

mance in 1996 has been slug-

gish. Investment and exports are likely to recover during the

next 12 months. Low interest

rates and a tight fiscal policy

Even so it expects both the

is likely to be made on GKN's accounts for 1996, though the final dividend, to be paid out in the spring, would not be cut.

GKN had cash reserves of £483m on its books in its halfyearly accounts, which could be substantially reduced if the full

flotation. Passenger numbers this year will top 6 million com-

pared with 3.4 million last year but Eurostar is reckoned to

opened more than a year late.

funds of that kind anywhere and

at any time and there will be a

view that this is in some way

rather than a small town jury.

However, the group is likely

to have to lodge some or all of

the cash in a bond with the court

before the appeal, which could

take up to a year to come to

court. An extraordinary charge

linked to Eurotunnel."

It would be difficult to raise

MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS

Interest Rate Change

The rates of interest for new and existing mortgage cu (in appropriate cases the basic rate) will increase by 0.25% to 6.99% with effect from 20th December 1996. The new rates continue to reflect the Society's commitment to mutuality and the benefits this brings to our customers.

Fixed rate mortgages are not affected during the contractual fixed rate period.

In cases where mortgage interest rate changes are subject. to notice, the increase will take place after the appropriate notice period which will commence on 20th December 1996

There will be no change to the interest rates on existing Secured Personal Loans regulated by the Consumer Credit.

For customers participating in the Society's annual review: procedure, this interest rate increase will be taken into account when calculating new monthly payments from March 1997 or, in appropriate cases, the anniversary of the ...



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The Environmental Investment Company Limited

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BSkyB warned to play | OECD predicts deadline fair on digital television for euro will not be met

None of the biggest EU economies is likely to qualify for membership of the single currency in time for the 1 January 1999 start date, according to an authoritative new report. The Organisation for Eco-

nomic Co-operation and Development predicts, in its end-vear economic outlook. that none of the key members of the euro will have a government budget deficit below the 3 per cent limit set out in the Maastricht Treaty by 1997, the decisive year. It praises the progress most continental European countries have made in reducing government budget shortfalls, but reckons only a few smaller members are likely to make it below the ceiling.

Although recovery in the EU economies will be modest thanks to these efforts to cut government borrowing, the organisation says the outlook for order or take operators to court. I the industrial economies is one

of balanced growth and low in-

In particular, it expects the US to grow by almost as much next year as in 1996 with barely any increase in inflation and only a small rise in interest rates. The report lends support to what financial markets have dubbed the "Goldilocks scenario", an economy that is nei-

ther too hot nor too cold. Japan is the one significant case where the OECD expects the pace of growth to slow. Canada is likely to be the fastest-growing of the big industrial economies in 1997-98, followed by the UK.

In the case of Germany, yesterday's report says: "On the assumption of a sufficiently supportive monetary stance, the Maastricht fiscal deficit criteria will be met if all the government's proposed measures are implemented." But the forecast puts the deficit at 3.4 per cent of GDP in 1997, just outside the limit.

It forecasts a 3.2 per cent

should permit faster growth without the threat of inflation. CURRENCIES

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Most mortals are going to find the amount being spent on merging with the Leeds Permanent and then floating on the stock market hard to understand or justify. At £413m, it is equal to the cost

of several spanking

new hospitals'

Up and up go the costs of Halifax conversion

ing with the Leeds Permanent and then floating on the stock market hard to understand or justify. At £413m, once everything is totted up, it is equal to the cost of several spanking new hospitals. Alternatively, it could be made to pay for about half the planned uplift in Government spending on education next year, or to cut the deficit to a level which might qualify Britain for the single European currency. It dwarfs even the costs of preparing the water companies for privatisation and then floating them on the stock market.

Looked at another way, it is about 10 per cent of what the Halifax and Leeds combined pay their depositors each year in inter-est. Even taking into account the fact the bulk of the cost is being incurred on the merger, expenses which presumably can be quite swiftly recouped out of subsequent cost savings, we are still talking about quite spectacular numbers.

Costs associated with the flotation alone are expected to come out at £153m. That may not look unduly high set against the company's expected filbn stock market worth, or the usual percentages charged by the City, but given that this float does not need to marketed or underwritten in any way, the figures still look out of all propor-tion. The reason, Halifax claims, is the enormous costs associated with communicating with its 9 million members. The sheer bulk of the necessary documentation is way

Most mortals are going to find the above anything seen before, and as a consequence unanticipated to some degree.

The obvious question is whether the exercise justifies the expenses. Halifax, it will be recalled, was a late convert to the idea of conversion. The full story of how it came to change its mind has yet to be told. For some years, Jon Foulds, the chairman, held out against it, giving long and highly articulate dissertations on why it wasn't for the Halifax. Then the scales fell from his eyes, the dyke was breached and those that still cling to mutuality are now the odd ones out. But the assertion that Halifax will be better for

Nationwide argues that what the others are going to have to pay out in dividends can in their case be used to offer their members keener interest rates. On the face of it, this is not an easy thing to argue against. The costs of the Halifax-Leeds merger and its subsequent flotation would be worth approx-imately half a percentage point to its depositors, the sort of advantage competitors would kill for. But with all those free shares around, who's going to dispute the costs?

its members as a joint stock company has yet

Metal Exchange gets a fair bill of health

The London Metal Exchange's way of life and its trading methods are safe, but its

the regulatory structure of the LME found it out of the ark, full of potentially damaging conflicts of interest and in urgent need of an overhaul.

SIB has no evidence of abuse. But to outsiders, the lack of a clear division of responsibility between the board and the executive is deeply worrying.

That explains why the Securities and Futures Authority, which regulates some LME members, has been wary of handing over too much information to the metal market. With the right reforms, that roadblock to a closer co-operation, which is essential to avoiding future scandals, should be removable. The LME had better get a

The LME has nevertheless won a victory of a kind. There is no more talk of a complete overhaul of the very special trading methods. After all, the fundamental cause of the Sumitomo scandal must be sought in Japan. The giant company, hardly in the wid-ows and orphans class, failed to police its

own enormous dealings in copper.
Furthermore, it reacted somnolently to warnings from the LME and SIB that something suspicious was going on. And the main companies with which it did business in London were not even LME members, but were regulated by the SFA.

The \$2.6bn of losses are therefore hard to pin on the peculiarities of LME trading. culture is not so secure. Yesterday's report | The metal market has no segregation of

to grant credit to their customers and there are no daily cash payments to cover margins - investor protection features found in all other London markets.

But the Securities and Investments Board has accepted the view of professionals connected with the LME that it should be allowed to continue in its own way.

The reason for this special treatment is that the bulk of LME users either produce or consume the products being traded, and are grown up enough to know what they are

More important, SIB says there is no systemic risk that the whole trading system would collapse if there were a default resulting from lack of segregation of client accounts. This is not a clean bill of health, but it could have been much worse.

Long haul ahead for high-speed rail link

Tust as investors are recovering their nerve after the fire in the Channel Tunnel, another bunch of railway enthusiasts are preparing to bring their train set to market. Early next year London and Continental Railways, the Eurostar operator, will begin softening up City institutions and banks for a capital-raising exercise to fund the £2.8bn high-speed rail link.

Don't be fooled, however, by that £2.8bn

by the Securities and Investments Board into | client accounts, LME members are allowed | figure, which is just the capital cost. Eurotunnel provided a wondrous insight into just how crippling compound interest can be. When the high-speed line is up and running, in theory by 2003, it will be remarkable if there is any change from £4bn (at 1995 prices). That seems a fancy sum for slicing 35 minutes off the journey time to Paris and Brussels.

There are some important differences, however, between LCR and Eurotunnel For one thing, LCR already has £1.4bn of public funding in its back pocket after the Government's belated recognition that it would never get this project out of the sidings unless it dipped into taxpayers' pockets.

For another, LCR also has a sizeable

income stream from Eurostar operations even though the chances of it actually turning a profit before floration at the beginning of 1998 must be remote.

And for a third thing, it has the market-ing chutzpah of Richard Branson's Virgin and the financial muscle of SBC Warburg behind it.

That said, the high-speed link will forever be linked - both physically and in the mind's eye of investors - with the Channel Tunnel, which came in a year late and twice the original budget and could, quite conceivably, never pay its original shareholders a dividend

It will take all Branson's pizzazz and all SBC's considerable financial ingenuity to pull this one off.

Interest rate rise leads to cut in mortgage lending

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The amount of new mortgage and consumer borrowing fell slightly last month, following the rise in base rates at the end of October. But November brought a surge in total bank the slight setback to borrowing lending for the second month

covery was still on track despite the slight setback, with mortgage advances well above the previous year's level. Adrian at NatWest Markets. Coles, director general, said: The slight fall in lending is not a sign of faltering recovery but, rather that it is more stable and likely to be sustainable in the

longer term. . ne strong dut steady outlook for the housing market was supported by Abbey National, one of the biggest mortgage

Predicting a 7 per cent rise in bouse prices in 1997, retail managing director Andrew Pople said: "We do not anticipate - and would not welcome

cycle of the late 1980s."

He added: "We do not expect interest rates to rise significantly in the foreseeable future, which in turn will underpin consumer confidence."

Economists suggested that reflected the withdrawal of cheap fixed-rate mortgage deals The Building Societies As-sociation said the housing re-base rates. There is little sign base rates. "There is little sign of a strengthening trend in personal sector borrowing," said John O'Sullivan, an economist

New lending by the building societies fell from £1.5bn in October to £1.3bn in November, still 73 per cent higher than a year earlier. Separate figures from the main high-street mortgage lending from £623m

Association said their total Even adjusting for this, the other rise in base rates.

- a return to the boom-bust BBA said there was demand for loans from across all economic sectors. It was particularly strong from service industries, while a jump in borrowing by leasing companies pointed to higher investment spending in

> The buoyant loans picture made for a higher-than-expected jump in total lending and in M4, the broad measure of the money supply. New loans in the economy amounted to £7bn, about the same as the previous month and 10 per cent higher than last November.

> The annual growth in M4 increased from 10.5 per cent to 10.8 per cent, highest rate for nearly six years.

The steady acceleration in broad money growth during Bank of England, even though £610m. the introduction of the gilts repo market has exaggerated the ssociation said their total pace. Many in the City thought lending was well above October's that, after strong retail sales and figure. It rose to £4.00n from a big drop in unemployment, £2.80n, inflated by an £800m the lending figures would lead the Bank to press harder for an-



Asda's chairman Archie Norman (right) with Allan Leighton, chief executive, in Harrogate yesterday Photograph: Guzellan

Norman rejects loyalty card as Asda surges

Archie Norman, Asda's chairman, remained resolutely opposed to the idea of introducing a loyalty card at the supermarket chain vesterday, as he announced strong profits and sales growth in the half-year to November.

"The old maxims are often the best. Keeping it simple has been the key to our success," he said, as he reported another bumper like-for-like sales performance from the Leeds-based multiple grocer. Sales from existing stores grew by 10.2 per cent in the six-month period, which compared with growth of only 7 per cent from Tesco, 5.1 per cent from Safeway and 2.3 per cent from Sainsbury.

Allan Leighton, who succeeded Mr Norman as chief executive earlier this year, added: "Our continued outperformance of the industry is evi-

dence of progress towards our Breakout goal of becoming Britain's best value fresh food and clothing superstore." Breakout is a three-year improvement programme launched by Asda

Profits in the half-year before

a £73m exceptional profit from the sale of the group's stake in Allied Carpets increased 15.8 per cent to £160.1m. Earnings per share increased by a similar margin to 4.06p and the dividend rose 12.5 per cent to 0.81p. Asda's shares, which have risen from a low of 23p in 1992, closed 1.75p higher at 125.5p.

Since Mr Norman joined Asda in 1992 to reverse its and clothing. Meat sales rose 19 fading fortunes, the group's return on sales has more than doubled despite a gradual decline in the return on assets enjoyed by the industry as a whole. Yesterday he said Asda had overtaken the average of its three big rivals on that measure

for the first time.

Asda's creed, "Simplicity is di-vinity", Mr Norman said; "Our competitors are looking for other things to do. We have nothing against loyalty cards, but we believe our success is more to do with being radical and doing things with pace."

With all the big grocery chains copying each others initiatives, he added, the trick was to stay ahead of the game and to focus on the core business rather than moving into peripheral areas such as financial services.

Asda's strongest performers in the period were fresh food per cent, produce 14 per cent and bakery sales were 13 per cent higher.

The George clothing brand saw a 35 per cent increase in sales with children's wear and ladies' outerwear especially

Investment column, page 22



SIB warns on conflict of interest at LME

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

The Securities and Investments Board said yesterday that serious potential conflicts of interest at the top of the London removed as soon as possible.

was proposing a seven-point to have ensured that they do not misuse information gained for the LME, the result of a six-regulatory purposes. month investigation into regulation of the metals market.

the summer after Yasun Hamanaka, a copper trader at Sumitomo, ran up losses of \$2.6bn for his employer, and SIB is to monitor progress at the LME over the next 12 months.

The SIB report said there had been occasions when conflicts of interest ruled out so many board members of the LME from an active interest that a special committee of the chief executive, including a co-opted outsider, had to be set up to deal with market developments.

SIB made no allegation that conflicts of interest had led to abuse of inside information ob-

tained while regulating the metal markets. But it made clear its concerns about the seriousness of the risks arising from the max-

ket's organisation. The report said: "In order to secure the confidence of users Metal Exchange should be of the LME, it is also essential that the board as a whole and The City's senior regulator its individual members are seen

There should be a clear separation between regulatory The inquiry was launched in tasks and the commercial activities of the exchange "so that confidentiality of information can be seen to be preserved".

The LME board should formally delegate responsibility for monitoring trading to the ex-ecutive and it should "continue to arrange its affairs so that it does not have access to market-sensitive information and should make clear publicly that

this is the case". One of SIB's recommendations is that the LME creates a post of head of market regulaiion and enforcement to give a "higher profile and a sharper

ulation and enforcement. Raj Bagri, chairman of the LME, insisted that there had never been any problem in practice but agreed that the SIB rec-ommendation would prompt changes in LME organisation and an increase in the number of independent directors, which he expects to rise from one to at least three. The staff of 44 will rise by about a fifth.

Mr Bagri said: "It is not just a question of doing the right thing but of being seen to be doing the right thing."
The report was attacked by

David Threlkeld, a copper trader, who warned the LME about Mr Hamanaka's activities in 1991. "You need a new executive entity on the LME with teeth and powers to put a stop to corruption and fraud." The SIB report came down against radical changes in the

distinctive way the LME operates, which arises from its deep involvement with producers and end users of metal. But it urged more indepen-dent directors and an exchange of information with the SFA.

Gallaher, the UK tobacco subsidiary of American Brands, is to shut its cigarette factory in Manchester with the loss of almost 1,000 jobs. Production is being transferred to its factory at Lisnafillan, Northern Ireland where around 300 new jobs. will be created. Local council leaders in

1,000 jobs

lost in

Gallaher

closure

Manchester and unions immediately condemned the decision. "This news has come as a complete bombshell to everyone and we are appalled by the timing of this decision just days before Christmas," the local council leader Roy Oldham said last night.

"I am left wondering whether this is a crude bribe by the Government to buy the Ulster Unionists' vote in its desperate attempts to cling on to power. I am struck by the coincidence that the news of this closure comes at the same time as the Government has given £10m to Northern Ireland to help make

The closure is part of a streamlining drive by Gallaher, which closed its Belfast plant in 1988 and its Port Talbot eigar factory in Wales in 1994.

The firm has also reduced its distribution plants from eight to a single centre in Crewe. Peter Wilson, chairman of Gallaher, said: "By now reducing from our two UK cigarette

factories to one and investing in the latest generation of ultrahigh speed cigarette manufacturing machinery, we will achieve significantly lower overhead costs and make an important improvement in production efficiency."

The Manchester factory, which manufactured Benson and Hedges and Silk Cut for the UK market, will take three to four years to close completely. American Brands is taking a

fourth-quarter pre-tax charge of approximately \$80m to cover the closure, which will mostly be used to cover redundancy packages.

The firm said the factory in Ulster would have a capacity to make up to 50 billion ciga-Radical regulation, page 24 | rettes a year.



Airtours buys up Italian cruise operator for £181m

The rise and rise of Airtours continued vesterday after the tour operator, Britain's second largest after Thomson, announced a further move into the booming cruise market with the acquisition of Europe's largest cruise company, Italy's Costa Crociere. Airtours' shares jumped 50p to 797.5p on the news, at which level they have more than doubled since the beginning of the year. The £181m deal, agreed by

Costa's controlling share-holders, was struck in joint partnership with Airtours' largest shareholder, Carnival Corporation, the largest US cruise operator. Both com-panies plan to contribute half the consideration from their own resources.

It is the first time Carnival and Airtours have acted in concert like this since Carnival took a 29.5 per cent stake in the

speculation that the two will total of 5.4 million. The cruise eventually merge. David Crossland, founder and chairman of Airtours, is already on the board of Carnival.

Airtours and Carnival said yesterday they had entered into an agreement with a syndicate of shareholders owning just over 50 per cent of Costa's Milan-traded shares. That Airtours expects to supply its syndicate's major shareholder is cruise ships through its own tour the Costa family itself, while other members include hotel and leisure group Accor, the Agnelli family which controls Fiat, and supermarket group

Chargeurs. Costa, which is based in Genoa, operates 10 ships. primarily in the Mediterranean, where it controls 30 per cent of the cruise market. It is strong in Italy, where it sells 70 per cent of all cruises on the Mediterranean, and in France, where its share is 40 per cent.

In the year to December 1995, it is estimated that about 900,000 cruises were taken in

market in Europe is expected to grow to 1.2 million cruise passengers by the year 2000.

Last year, Costa made profits before tax and extraordinary items of £18.2m from sales of £380m. The company will be run operation and to stock its brochures in its Going Places

travel agencies.
The Costa deal follows hot on the heels of bumper full-year figures from Airtours last week for the 12 months to September. Profits rose 46 per cent to £86.8m after a 30 per cent rise in sales to £1.7bn. That compared with profits earlier this week from rival First Choice of £10m from sales of

Airtours indicated at the time of its results that it was planning to spend up to £250m on overseas acquisitions to push its

NSM shares sink to 8p

NSM saw its already lowly share price fall by a third yesterday after the heavily indebted mining group revealed a huge half-year loss and admitted the future of its deep coal mine in south Wales rested on the successful outcome of crisis talks with bankers. NSM's shares, as high as 80p a year ago, closed 4p

The news served to highlight the growing difficulties facing Britain's small knot of mining companies. Last week almost £200m was wiped off the stock market value of RJB Mining. Britain's biggest coal stockbrokers Paine Webber, producer, after the company's would be at a substrutial

own broker warned about the impact of cheap overseas imports of coal in the wake of sterling's recent strength.

Investments, the mining venture headed by Malcolm Edwards, a In the year to September NSM racked up losses of £71.9m all but £500,000 of which relate to a provision on the sale of businesses which

NSM again warned that the sale of its US coal operations, which is being handled by US

John Jermine, the chairman, said several "unforeseen operational difficulties and delays" had significantly affected working capital requirements. "Consequently, the company has been in detailed discussions with its bankers regarding its immediate

have yet to be determined." Mr Jermine said trading in the US was "extremely difficult"

Asda trumps the loyalty card pack

Asda's refusal to get involved in the loyalty card war smacks a little of mak-

ing virtue out of necessity. But cynicism about its motives aside, Asda is probably right to hold back from the fray. The jury is still out on whether the costs of loyalty cards are outweighed by the benefit of higher sales, but the evidence so far is not compelling.

Asda has always played a different marketing game from its more upmarket peers, and it remains the only non-discount grocery chain to sell itself unashamedly on price, but it is currently making more than usual of its Leeds origins. Its price promise now finds itself literally inscribed in Yorkshire stone outside its superstores – true

With the company for the time being still run by the prospective from leisure giant Rank as nothing parliamentary candidate for true blue lunbridge Wells, that may ring somewhat hollow, but the underlying group fell 25.5p to 416.5p as investors message that what consumers want from a supermarket is good value, good quality and service has a ring of common sense. The riny discounts offered by loyalty cards have always been a con that underestimated the intelligence of the average shopper.

Asda's continuing ability to outstrip its peers on crucial measures such as return on capital employed and likefor-like sales growth is surprising but pleasantly so. Like-for-like turnover growth of 10.2 per cent in the six months to November remains comfortably ahead of Tesco's 7 per cent and leaves Sainsbury's 2.3 per cent stand-ing. For the first time, Asda's return on capital has risen above the average of its three largest rivals and while its trend is healthily upwards the others are getting a progressively worse return from the assets they employ.

Other battles Asda appears to be winning are for the hearts and minds

of clothes shoppers and fresh food buyers, the latter not traditionally its strongest suit. Having taken full control of the George clothing brand, real progress is being made towards the target of becoming the number two family clothes brand behind M&S. Fresh food sales are growing like Topsy, with meat, especially, taking off.

The rather belated push to achieve 40 per cent of sales from own-brand products also appears to be going according to plan with successful cereal launches among 2,000 new lines taking penetration up to 35 per cent. A

similar push is planned for next year.
In all sorts of ways Asda continues to force the pace in the supermarket arena but it remains firmly in the pack as far as stock market rating goes, on a prospective p/e ratio of 13 on the basis EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Asda: at a glance

year and £378m next time. If you want to be in the sector, Asda is your best way in, but in a cut-throat mature market and with its driving force destined

for the Opposition benches, there is Hard Rock lets

Rank down

The stock market was right to interpret yesterday's 11-month "trading update" reacted badly to two worrying devel-

The biggest surprise came at the Hard Rock themed restaurant chain. While just about any old branded concept serving up half-decent beer and grub seems to be coming it, Hard Rock has spectacularly missed out on the bonanza. True, a BSE beef scare closed the Paris branch for 15 days in the autumn, but nevertheless like-for-like

per cent - analysts noted that in London turnover rose a sub-inflationary 2 per cent while sales fell in New York. Not surprisingly, Hard Rock has re-cently expanded its national and local sales forces in the US to beef up the marketing effort.

The other concern is the slipping timetable for the planned £1bn sale of Rank's remaining 20 per cent stake in copier company Rank Xerox. Originally due to take place in the first quarter of 1997, the talk now is of a sale some time before the end of 1998. The Fairey issued its hurried offer document sale is seen as a way for Rank to return cash to investors, either in the form of a share buy-back or special dividend, but they should not hold their breath.

Disposals of non-core assets form a key part of the strategic review recently completed by new chief executive Andrew Teare, formerly of English

China Clays. Yesterday saw the Shearings holiday coach business finally sold to its management for £83m. All told, Rank has raised more than £200m during the second half, though borrowings still remain around £1bn after Rank splashed out £123m in October for the Tom Cobsales in the 32 Hard Rock cafes fell 4 leigh chain of themed pubs. That deal

all its talk of restructuring, was still pre-pared to pay full prices for cyclical busi-

nesses at the top of the economic cycle.

Broker Kleinwort Benson sticks with its bottom-of-the-range forecast of pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits of £294m this year, rising to £345m in 1997. That implies a price/earnings ratio of 17 falling to 15. Unexciting.

for rival engineer Burnfield yesterday and with it a slew of facts and figures showing what an appalling investment Burnfield has been over the past five years. No one would argue with that both capital value and dividend income

have fallen 40 per cent over that period.
Burnfield rightly countered that
Fairey's choice of period was highly
selective, as they always are in hostile
bid situations, and attempted to put forward its own three-year period, starting at the company's recent low point when it parted company with its previous chief executive. As always, a hostile bid has drowned hapless investors in a torrent of innuendo and half-truth.

The real story is, not surprisingly, a combination of the two sides' arguments, but Fairey wins on points. Burnfield has made some pretty awful acquisitions along the way, resulting in a hefty £12m exceptional charge that will send it £8m into the red this year. It has a poor history of disappointing shareholders with profits warnings and has seen its earnings per share go nowhere in the past five years. After a collapse in its dividend in 1993, the payout has edged upwards but is only a little more than half the 1992 level.

Against that backdrop it is now attempting to sell a £20m seven-for-10 rights issue to shareholders to fund an acquisition into a new area, vibration control equipment. The City reaction to the deal - 10 per cent off the share price to 100p - tells the story.

Normally the best thing to do in a bid.

like this is to wait for the arguments to unfold. In this case, that is not possible because Fairey says it will only go ahead with the one-for-four share bid if shareholders vote down the proposed acquisition and rights issue on 30 December. So, shareholders have to make a snap decision. Faced with stumping up £630 for every £1,000 of shares they own, the temptation to snatch a decent premium at yesterday's close of 141.5p is enormous. Sell in the market.

Earlier this year administra-tors were called in at Coal former British Coal director.

have either been completed or are expected to be finalised.

and long-term funding which

and blamed two "once in a hundred years" storms in successive years, previously unknown geological problems in the deep mines and low selling prices. If the talks are successful, NSM's future will largely de-pend on the pit in south Wales.

Cook defends 'implausible' forecast

Patrick Tooher

The war of words between steel castings group William Cook and its pursuer, Birmingham-indulging in cheap jibes in an at-Cook reckons it is worth any-based Triplex Lloyd, reached a tempt to divert shareholders at-where between 500p-700p on new level of intensity yesterday tention away from the key issue the basis of the new forecast. as both sides traded accusation which is the value of William Triplex Lloyd asked William and counter-accusation.

The fur started to fly after Triplex Lloyd dismissed William Cook's latest profit forecast as 'implausible". William Cook responded by accusing Triplex £10.7m in the year to March Lloyd of making "a number of 1997 showed that Triplex

points" and of failing to understand its business.

rstand its business. Triplex Lloyd is offering 312p
"Once again Triplex Lloyd is in cash and shares, but William Cook's business and prospects," claimed Andrew Cook, chairman and chief executive.

William Cook said its forecast

ill-considered and inaccurate Lloyd's £58m offer was "Indicrously low".

of pre-tax profits of not less than

with concern. in pre-tax nn Cook's shareholders to question the quality of earnings which William Cook has forecast.

It noted that on 25 October William Cook issued a "downbeat" interim statement in which Mr Cook said William

the resulting cut in production

Six days later a report by UBS, William Cook's own broket, forecast less than 5 per cent Lockyer, Triplex Lloyd's chief growth in pre-tax profits to £8.8m for the year to March, implying no growth in the second half over the previous year.

But Triplex Lloyd said that just eight days after it an-nounced its offer, Mr Cook had

Cook was seeing a thinning in continued profit growth in the order books and that he viewed second half of the current year. We do not accept this profit forecast as representing a sus-tainable level of profitability for William Cook," said Graham

> is an implausible short-term reaction to our offer." Mr Cook said the forecast was struck before the bid de-

fence costs but after refurbishment costs of £2.2m charged to already begun to guarantee the profit and loss account.

among suppliers, the total num-ber of jobs created could be as high as 2,700.

The go-ahead for the investment came yesterday after Vauxhall's parent company, General Motors, and the French car group Renault signed an agreement in Paris to develop a new medium van

Michael Harrison

As part of the agreement, Renault will start supplying Vauxhall with a version of its Trafic van early next year. It will be sold in Britain as the Vauxhall Arena and will replace the Midi, which IBC stopped build-

Vauxhall is to create 900 jobs at the turn of the century. Outwith a £180m investment in put of the van from the IBC batilly plant in France, will renew van making facilities at its IBC Vehicles plant in Luton. plant, which already makes the Frontera four-wheel drive Together with extra employment vehicle, will be 60,000 a year and 75 per cent of production will

Vauxhall creates 900 jobs

in new van partnership

be for export. Together with development expenditure, the total cost of the van project could be as high as £400m. Nick Reilly, chairman of Vauxhall and IBC Vehicles. declined to say what total investment would be but he said it was such that neither manu-

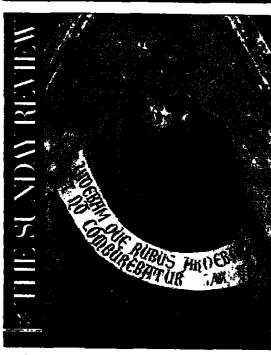
facturer could have afforded to launch the new van alone. Just under half the £180m investment will be at the IBC plant and the rest, funded

weight range of 2.5-2.8 tonnes heavy sector of the market in place the Renault Master and will compete with bigger end of the Ford Transit range.

The European van market is currently running at around 300,000 a year. The 60,000 production targeted by Vauxhali and Renault for the new van at Luton is significantly higher than the combined output of the

Trafic and Midi ranges. The Luton plant currently employs 1,800 on production of the Frontera, which is running at 33,000 a year. Although production of the Midi was phased out earlier this year there were no job losses as workers were shifted onto the Frontera line. IBC Vehicles is 82 per cent owned by General Motors and 18 per cent by Isuzu Motors of

IN THIS WEEKEND'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



PROPHETS Every age has its prophets: original thinkers or

LATTER

DAY

agitators whose ideas shape civilisation for a generation or more. Who will be the voices of the new millennium?

Each month, 1,000 works of art are stolen. Few are recovered. Why? Geraldine Norman on the secrets of Interpol's Most Wanted Works of Art register

Plus: a new short story by Steven Heighton, Michael Bywater's seasonal reflections, and Martin Rowson's radical reinterpretation of A Christmas Carol

and in real life

Flirting with misogyny – a panto dame defends his craft. Plus: Christmas flashpoints and how to avoid them; the new men of rap; perfect party dresses; and the long-awaited outsize directory



IN BRIEF

• The prospect of cheaper international phone services was raised yesterday after the DTI licensed 44 international phone operators, ending the duopoly over foreign traffic between BT and Mercury. Of 46 companies who applied, 44 were granted licences, including US giant AT&T, Racal and Energis, the phone company owned by National Grid. Mike Grabiner, Energis chief executive, said the news was a "huge opportunity", raising the prospect of joint ventures to low further international characters. ventures to lay further international phone cable capacity. He said new operators would also be able to expand customer services, including overseas private networks for businesses for the first time.

 Dominion Resources, the US utility company which has made a £1.3bn agreed takeover bid for East Midlands Electricity, yes-terday bought 15 per cent of shares in the Nottingham-based regional power supplier. Dominion spent £199m on the stake which it bought at the bid price of 670p a share. It also disclosed it had received acceptances so far from investors with 35.3 per cent of East Midlands shares, which means the Virginia company speaks for just over 50 per cent of its bid target. A spokesman denied the share buying was a sign it feared a counter bidder would arrive on the scene. East Midlands shares rose 3p to 664p.

 President Clinton is expected to announce that Janet Yellen, currently a Federal Reserve Governor, will become the new chair-man of the Council of Economic Advisers. Subject to Senate confirmation, she will replace Joseph Stiglitz, who is moving to become chief economist at the World Bank. Separately, the White House said yesterday that the President will make the major decisions on the next fiscal year's budget by the end of this week. It is due to be presented to Congress early in February.

 The Bundeshank set a two-year policy target yesterday, extending the usual period for its money supply target in order to map out the way to the introduction of the euro on 1 January 1999. It left all key interest rates unchanged after yesterday's council meeting. Zhenhai Refining and Chemical will today become the first

equity-related Chinese listing on the London Stock Exchange. The company has raised \$200m (£120m) through a convertible bond issue, which was 10-times oversubscribed. BAT Industries has sold Henri Wintermans Cigar company for £55m to Skandinavisk Tobakskompagni, the Dutch group. BAT hokis a 32 per cent stake in Skandinavisk.

	Company Results						
	2 revotral	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend			
Armous Trust (I)	17.5m (19.9m)	0.54m (1.3m)	1.6p (2.5p)	0.46p (0.46p)			
Asda (I)	3.45bn (3.04bn)	232m (138m)	6.57p (3.51p)	0.81p (0.72p)			
Acatos & Hatcheson (F)	282m (294m)	7.7m (7 8m)	14.5p (12.2p)	5.5p (10p)			
Landon Mershael Sec (1)	- (·)	15,1m (25.9m)	3.69p (7.58p)	0.8p (0.8p)			
M\$34 (T)	60.6m (54.4m)	-75.5m (2.5m)	-123p (3.9p)	nii (-)			
Staneleo (I)	1.0m (0.86m)	0.02m (-0.10m)	6.003p (-0.014p)				
Stewart & Wight (I)	- (-)	0.22m (0.18m)	9.40 (7.850)	nii (nii)			

evenly by Vauxhall and Renault, will be spent on supplier tooling. The agreement will also see ing earlier this year. Renault supplying Vauxhall The new van will have a with an entirely new van for the Bank of Scotland

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

Mortgages Direct

The following rates for mortgages provided by Bank of Scotland, Mortgages Direct will apply as from 2nd January 1997 for both new and existing borrowers.

> Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Variable Rate 7.74% per annum.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Preferential Variable Rate 6.74% per annum.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Personal Choice Variable Rate 7.24% per annum.



BANK OF SCOTLAND® MORTGAGES DIRECT

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10.4m (12.9m) -2.41m (1.44m) -4.25p (2.13p) nl (1.42p)

23.1m (14.2m) 10.1m (8.55m 15.92p (13.85p) 12.2p (-)

market report/shares

Festive cheer escapes Matthew Clark as Footsie jumps FTSE 100 4051.3 +33.1 FTSE 250 4406.8 +26.3 2009.4 +15.4 260p it is just above its lowest brewer. SEAQ VOLUME for six years. 1.1bn shares,

35,239 bargains Gifts Index 94.03 +0.22 ing the alcopops vogue had devastated its cider sales, profdevastated its cider sales, profit forecasts were sliced from more than £70m to around Clark's distribution network. Share spotlight more than £70m to around £50m. The shares, riding high

> year, collapsed. They are so distressed that pansion drive. the cider and wine group looks ripe for a takeover bid. For some time there have been

There was a notable absentee from yesterday's festive march. Matthew Clark, the drinks group, remained firmly in the stock market doghouse; at the world's second-largest

Millers, striving to improve There are fears of more its presence in this country, is profit downgradings. When in September Matthew Clark rocked the market, and the cry and has earmarked land drinks industry, by complain- near Matthew Clark's Somerset heartland.

which includes the Freetraders wholesaling operation, as a major part of its British expansion drive.

Millers beers are now brewed under licence by Scottish & Newcastle. Its big rivel at more than 800p earlier in the brewed under licence by Scot-tish & Newcastle. Its big rival, Anheuser Busch, has already



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

takeover action embraced one of those rare occasions Storehouse. The retailer has when Seaq turnover soared been in the dumps largely beatons 1 billion; tax efficient cause of negative comment from Barclays de Zoete Wedd. bed-and-breakfast trades con-tributed to the volume. Railtrack was squeezed With stories of a 300p-a-share offer swirling around, the price rose 8.5p to 261p with Seaq putting volume at a remarkably

profit estimates were cut following an investment meeting: GKN lost 35.5p to 1,009.5p af-ter a US legal judgement which could cost up to \$554m. Whitthat Storehouse planned a de-

Manchester Utd, responding to the plan to create an FISE football subsection, raced to a

641.5p peak, up 26.5p. Airtours, aiming to buy Costa Crociere, Europe's largest cruise company, in partnership with its biggest shareholder, Carnival Corporation, climbed 50p to 797.5p.
Daigety, the pet group, con-

tinued to edge ahead, up 4p to 354p, on vague bid talk; Hillsdown was firm at 193p ahead 27.5p higher to 398p, a peak, on dividend buying: BTR's revival continued with an 8.5p united News & Media, revival continued with an 8.5p

gain to 273.5p. flecting SBC Warburg sup-Rank fell 25.5p to 416.5p as port, gained 23.5p to 683.5p. Four newcomers scored gains. Crown, an amusement machine group, ended at 80.5p against a 77p placing: Fountain

dividend at 6.1p. Hunters Arm-ley, a printer, gained 12.5p to 105p as Pannure Gordon forecast year's profits of £4.8m

against £1.8m. Lanica, the Andrew Regan vehicle, spurted another 150p to 1,250p (after 1,300p); stories go around about a deal with Littlewoods but the company has yet to make a statement.

onth.

Bruntcliffe Aggregates
United News & Media, regained 2p to 28.5p as Bardon exercised opnons, acquiring a 22.72 per cent interest. Barrion, itself an old takeover favourite,

was unchanged at 33.5p.

Geo Interactive Media
added 8p to 61.5p after director David Goldman, chairman

Ruberoid, the building materials group, tumbled 10.5p to 100.5p following a profit warning; it plans to hold its warnings it plans to hold its warnings in plans to hold its warning its land to the Human Anni try has landed a contract with Abbott Laboratories, a leading US group, and a collabo-rative research deal with Metacrine, a New Jersey startup company. Robin Lodge, chairman of the DCS computer services group, has become non-executive chairman.

> Nearly a quarter of the shares of Olex-traded Barnham Broom, an East Anglian hotel company, have changed hands. The stakes held by SPP Ventures and the old British & Commonwealth Holdings have been sold to clients of stockbroker Henderson Crosth-

	Some time there have been agging suggestions that Grim ess, the beer and spirit gian which has recently dipped in toe into the cider market could be interested in swal lowing Matthew Clark. But	Anheuser Busch, has already merger, perhaps hiving office exchanged a licence deal for its once stand-alone BhS stores own brewery, the old Watch, ney's plant at Mortlake, South-le west London. Anheuser Busch, has already merger, perhaps hiving office once stand-alone BhS stores to the standard property of the standard	ts could cost up to \$554m. Whites bread, off 14.5p to 761p, reflected the departure of chief executive Peter Jarvis, architect 3, of the reshaping of the brew-	its 75p placing and Linden, a housebuilder, from 150p to 164.5p. Xenova, a drugs group placed at 215p. edged ahead to	added 8p to 61.5p after director David Goldman, chairman of computer group Sage, doubled his shareholding to 100,000, buying shares at 60p; Martin Sheiton, a diaries business, rose 4.5p to 74.5p. broker Henderson Crosthwaite and the Sunley family. John Gunn, formerly at B&C, is chairman of Barnham, which expects record profits this year. It made £411,000 last year. The shares held at 48p.
ŧ	### Low Stock Price Cbg Yid Pricode #### Low Stock Price Cbg Yid Pricode ###################################	65 36 Fide Side 62 - 20 3579 358 358 Fide Side 81 42 22 3056 300 25 Abra 221 45 45 45 10 20 20 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 4	201 20	1800	Share Price Data Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) 1800 is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: r Excitotis x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unisted Securities Market is Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. ± AM Stock The Independent Index The Independent Index The index allows you is access residing share prices by ghone from London Stock Exchange. Surply dial 1981: 123 355, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed read to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 1981: 2331 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. FTSE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 04 Privatiosation issues 35 UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Wester Shares 38 UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40 Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Shreet Banks 41 Anyone with a tone-dial talephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 23 333. For assistance, call our helpine 070 873 4378 800cm - 500cm) Callis cost 50p per animate (day time), and 48p at all other blesse. Call charges include Wit Market leaders: Top 20 Volumes Stock Vertico Stoc
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affair, the Barings col-

lapse and the Deutsche

Morgan Grenfell unit trust

scandal have given a new lease

of life to a long-running argu-

ment about whether there

should be a root and branch

reform of financial regulation.

course, but a curiosity of this lat-

est debate is that some of the

most senior figures in the City

are proposing much more rad-

ical solutions than the Labour

Party. The politicians who on

the hustings are most inclined

to put the boot in have actually

taken quite a conciliatory

Labour's proposal that all the

regulators governed by the 1986 Financial Services Act

should be rolled up into a sin-

gle institution.
The Securities and Futures

Authority, Imro, the fund man-

agement regulator, and the

Personal Investment Authority, which looks after savings, would be merged into the senior reg-ulator, the Securities and

Investments Board. The result

would be a single statutory or-

ganisation, similar to the US

Securities and Exchange Com-

mission, though perhaps with rather more input from practi-

The Government does not

like this idea at all, and prefers

the status quo. Among the reg-

ulators themselves, the SIB is

thought to be discreetly sup-portive of the thrust of the

Labour proposals - unsurpris-

ingly, since it would be the win-

ning bureaucracy. However,

executives in charge of the junior regulatory bodies such as

the SFA, the PIA and Imro

The SFA and the PIA are

canvassing openly for much

more radical reorganisation

than the Labour Party has pro-

posed, and they have a number

of influential City figures cheer-

One explanation of the con-

cerns of the junior regulators is,

of course, that they may be wor-

Foreign Exchange Rates

15-25 240-183 0-0 155-168 0-0

10-16 93-52 0-0 64-71 0-0

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Forward rates quoted high to low are at a rate quoted low to legh are at a premium;

For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033 C-Ns cost 50p per minute (day rate) 45p other times

think it a rather poor idea.

tioners than in the US.

The story begins with

approach to the issue.

We've been here before, of

Labour's proposals aren't

radical enough for the City

Peter

Rodgers

To merge

banking and

securities

regulation would

have important

implications for

the Bank of

England because

it might lose its

supervision role

ried about becoming mere division heads at the SIB under

a Labour government. But they do have a convincing point to make about the risks of merg-

ing the entire gamut of regu-

lation of personal savings and

of the professional markets into a unified body.

Savings regulation is basically consumer protection, to prevent

sharks preying on small fish, as they did in the pension trans-

For the markets the priori-

ties are rather different. Cer-

tainly, the sharks need to be

kept out of the pool if at all pos-

sible. But professional investors

and dealers should be better

able than savers to look after

themselves, so the priorities are

fair and open trading and

financially healthy and well-run

Regulation should therefore

be divided on functional lines no further than threatening

4.9604 1.6183 0.9068 2.4041 0.8968

132.375 (0.6403 86.6529 43.7702 261.819 60533 9228.65 77729 45,7358 61084

fer scandal.

and a market policing organi-

sation, to reflect these differ-

Sumitomo in the copper mar-

ket and the hundreds of mil-

lions Deutsche Bank is pouring

into Morgan Grenfell to pay for

the losses at its unit trust busi-

ness illustrate the difference be-

tween the two types of

regulation. The former was an

entirely professional market and the latter a savings business.

However, Barings gives a third dimension to the argu-

ment, as the the Commons

Treasury Committee pointed

to make a clear distinction be-

tween banking, which is supervised by the Bank of Eng-

land, and the securities and in-

vestment markets, which are

covered by the Financial Ser-

Banks are deeply involved in securities trading, while the securities industry has been

stealing business from banks by

persuading their customers to

borrow in the markets instead.

Indeed, convergence between the two industries has gone so

far that this week a group of

banks has been discussing set-

ting up a formal market in

which they can trade bank

loans between themselves -

treating them exactly as if they

were securities such as bonds.

the SFA and the PIA to their

logical conclusion, what is the

justification for the continued

separation of banking and securities regulation? If a bank or a securities firm gets into trou-

ble, the investigations overlap

at every point, making a hard

To merge banking and secu-

rities regulation would have

important implications for the

Bank of England, as the select

committee pointed out, be-cause it might lose its banking

supervision role to some new

The select committee went

k more difficult.

75%

Money Market Rates

17.7000 51.8200 2.2300 0.7556 9.8700 2.8285 7.8600

Tourist Rates

Taking the ideas canvassed by

It is hard, in modern markets,

out this week.

vices Act.

The \$2.6bn losses made by

Labour, too, has steadily backed away from its earlier

There are some well-re-

hearsed arguments against cre-

tral bank true independence.

An argument against radical change, put forcefully by Sir An-

drew Large, chairman of the

SIB, is that no matter how

good the alternative system, the

years of change will be disrup-

tive and dangerous, so that slow evolution is preferable.

embracing a half-way solution,

which includes substantial

changes but may well not be

radical enough to cope with the markets of the 21st century, it

will have the worst of both

worlds - much disruption for lit-

It would make more sense to

do nothing at all until a very

good look has been taken at the

more radical ideas emerging

tle real benefit.

Labour's difficulty is that by

ences of emphasis.

Austna Brazil China Egypt Finland Ghana Grecce India Kuwan

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Whitbread chief executive sets his sights on greener pastures

Peter Jarvis is stepping down as chief executive of Whitbread after 12 years in between a consumer protection the bank with losing the supervision function if it did not the post. This may be no surprise, but at only 55, what improve its performance. The is he going to do? "To MPs drew back from making looking forward to playing this a firm recommendation. more golf and getting to know my wife," he said. "I gave up golf 30 years ago investigations of whether to when I got married. I'm a break up the Bank of England. member of three clubs so I

> ating a new independent super-Goodwood near where we regulator for securities and He will also spend more time on what he describes as banking, and they should not be dismissed lightly.
> Indeed, the Bank has a much "my big boat" which is moored at Chichester. better reputation for its super-Leaving Whitbread after 20 years will be a wrench for vision techniques among its oversees peers than it has in the Cambridge-educated Mr UK, so it cannot be doing everything wrong. Problems Jarvis, who joined the brewer such as Barings pale into inin 1976 after 12 years at Unilever. During his tenure as chief executive he signed the significance compared with the savings and loans collapse in the US, the Japanese and Swedish franchise agreement for TGI banking crises and the French Friday and bought Boddingtons, Berni Inns and débâcle over Credit Lyonnais.

will probably play at

Peter Dominic, as well as Pelican and Brightreasons The Bank has shown no signs so far of wanting to hand more recently. He has also over supervision to anybody worked closely with his successor, David Thomas, on else. But some detect a softer line emerging. It is possible to imagine Eddie George, the two landmark acquisitions last year which saw Whitbread Governor, launching an examsnap up David Lloyd Leisure and 16 Marriot hotels. ination of the merger of banking and securities regulation, in certain circumstances. He · Mr Thomas, 52, will take might agree to give up super-vision if Britain stays outside the over next summer. He joined Whitbread in 1984 as a regional director in the inns single currency but gives its cen-

> Andrew Cook, top man at metalbasher William Cook, is not known for a lack of selfpromotion. So there is one big surprise in his company's corporate video now being circulated in the City as part of the group's defence against the bid from Triplex Lloyd.

division. More recently he has

run the restaurants and

He doesn't appear in it. It is always interesting to note which companies try to slip in an annual general meeting or egm in the fallow period between Christmas and New Year. Sometimes there are genuine reasons for this. But

on other occasions, the dates

Liffe Financial Futures

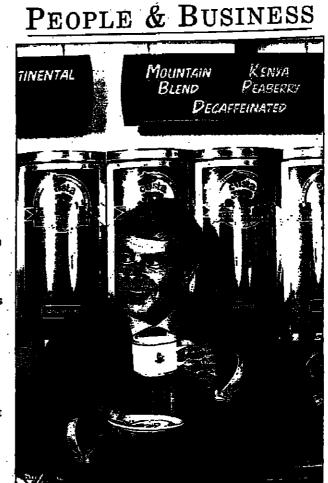
Liffe FTSE Index Option

Energy

Unit

23.84 23.20 22.52

Trust



Vaiting in the wings: Whitbread's David Thomas

are chosen because the company doesn't really want anyone to come. Top of the list in this category is Costain, the accident-prone construction company. Costain is selling its US coal business and is holding an egm to approve the sale on 27 December. No doubt the reason is that Costain is keen to avoid too many New Age travellers trudging along to protest about the construction of the Newbury bypass which Costain is building. This

follows the group's agm

earlier in the year which

+1049 -1623 +2899 -1804 +110 -471

degenerated into farce with protesters storming the

podium and security men being called in. Costain denies it is being furtive: "Absolutely not. It's just a matter of procedure." A hard core of protesters will

probably turn ap anyway. Burton has jazzed up its annual report by publishing it as a glossy magazine. Chief executive John Hoerner's favourite model, Helena Christiansen, graces the cover. Inside, sections on

each of the formats such as

Dorothy Perkins and

Industrial Metals

Principles look like fashion spreads. "We thought, well, we're a fashion retailer. We ought to try something different," says spokeswoman Amanda Bassett.

Bibulous businessmen should make a beeline for South Korea, according to a new guide, "Central Expatriate" by Arthur Andersen. There, visiting executives are expected to take to the tincture in a big way after a hard day at the conference table. Unlike the depressing Anglo-American trend towards abstinence, the Koreans like to enjoy themselves, and the Andersen guide counsels that at business partics one should be prepared to sing. A refusal

Apparently, however, it is not mandatory to get as drunk as one's host. Sometimes one is taken to the Korean version of a geisha house, where the women are regarded as "talking furniture" rather

than sex objects. The Japanese have a similar attitude to alcohol and are among the heaviest drinkers in Asia. However, it should be remembered that the Japanese seem to have a greater ability to recover from hangovers and foreign businessmen should be on parade first thing in the

And finally, here are some trend predictions for 1997, courtesy of marketing

consultancy New Solutions.

The trend for all things "clear", "lite" and "pure" will make way for a boom in all things red, even red beers.

• Madonna's new film Evita will lead to an outbreak of South American themes, including food and dance crazes. Supermarket bome delivery

> You have been warned. **Nigel Cope**

The advent of the recordable

will go national.

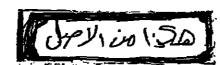
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sport



Club shows whip flexibility

Racing JOHN COBB

The old descriptions of an intractable, unwavering Jockey Club meting out racing discipline with an iron rod were just about buried for good yesterday when its new, flexible instructions on whip abuse were an-

This attempt to tackle one of the sport's most controversial problems was received well by just about every section of the racing industry and, more importantly, by the RSPCA. Had that organisation condemned the revised instructions - which could be perceived as more lenient - instead of contributing to their making, then another shower of bad publicity could have rained down on the sport.

RESULTS

TOWCESTER

12.40: 1. AMBIDECTROUS (I. Cusmins)
6-1; 2. Polo Porty 16-1; 3. Seymore 12-1;
15 ran. 7-4 (av Kasham (Sth.), 9, 1½, [c Alston, Longson). Totes: £7.40: £1.70, £5.10,
£3.10. DF: £75.40, CSF: £96.62. Tricase:
£1.046.26. Tric: £235.90 (part won).
£1.00: £1.70. WMATMADDS (M A Fragistal) 7-2;
£ Recoelleh 10-1; 3. Bridepark Rose 10-1;
15 ran. 11-4 fav Lueby Krught (Sh), 3, 3½,
(N Henderson, Lambourn). Tote: £5.20;
£2.70. £2.70, £3.60. DF: £25.30. CSF:
£43.91. Tric: £209.00. NR: Hallopous. Mo
7 Hallopous was windrawn not under orders.
Rule 4 does not apply, no market formed.
£40: 1. ROSSERTY 1EA (P. Niven) evens
for; 2. Stac-Pollaidin 8-1; 3. Quiet Milstress
5-2, 11 ran. 19, 17, (Mrs. M Reveley, Sekburni. Tote: £1.90; £1.70, £2.20, £1.10.
DF: £15.70. CSF: £10.98, Tric: £6,70,
£100: 1. BEATRON (B Powel) 6-4 fax; 2.
Judet, Jones 4-1; 3. Dr. Rocket 100-30. 5
ren. 19, 8, (R Buckler, Bropoot), Totes: £2.50; **TOWCESTER**

£1.60, £1.40, DF: £8.20, CSF: £7.96, NR: Man Mood.

2.40: 1. RED BLAZER (J Osborne) 9-4 fac.

2. Sprintfayre 12-1; 3. Forrers 33-1, 16 ran. 12, ½. (Mass H Krught, Wandse). Tota: £4.10: £1.60, £2.00, £11.60, DF: £31.80, CSF: £34.12. Tho: not won. NR: Majestic Affair, Thaty Below. After a stewards Impuly, the placings remained unablered.

3.10: 1. PRICES HILL (C OTWAR) 4-1; 2. River Mandata 5-2 jt fav; 3. Spurffington 11-1, 12 ran. 5-2 jt fav; Even Blue (Sth). 4, sth-hil. (R Balley, Upper Lambourn). Tota: £6.70; £1.30, £2.40, £4.30, DF: £7.30, CSF. £15.44. Thosat: £10.24.2. Tho: £52.60, 3.40: 1. PRINCESEL (G Hogan) 7-2; 2. Blüingsgutta 7-1; 3. King Mole 7-1, 15 ran. 7-4 fav Shore Parry (Sth). 2½, 3. (Mrs.) Phrman, Upper Lambourn). Tota: £50.07; £1.70, £3.70, £2.10. DF: £21.30, CSP. £32.82. Tho: £64.00.

104.00. Jackpot: £7,100.00 (part wan; pool of £463.94 camed forward to Hereford today). Placepot: £163.30. Quadpot: £9.70. Place 6: £135.31. Place 5: £22.79.

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Westwell Boy** (Hexham 3.00) **NB: Hay Dance** (Hereford 3.50)

CATTERICK 12.20: 1. KING PIN (R Supple) 9-4 fav; 2. Lagen Bridge 3-1; 3. Mejor Harzis 12-1. 17 ran. 1½, 21. (P Beaumont, Brands-by), Totes £3.00; £1.10, £1.10, £5.40, DF: £7.50, CSF £10.02, Troc £61.80, NR; Gal-lart Major, Mister Ross. 12.50: 1. BOSWORTH FIELD (M Fosze)

£179.00. CSF: £463.09. The: £109.80 (part won).

1.20: 1. FEN TERRIER (A Doubin) 9-4; 2. Opera Fast 4-1; 3. Fast A Dreamer 7-2. 5 ran. 7-4 for Pengsan (Sth). 5, 10. (f Murtagh, Carlsie). Tota: £4.30; £1.30, £1.40. DF: £11.70. CSF: £11.17.

1.50: 1. TWIN FALLS (I Callaghen) 13-8; 2. Port in A Shorms 11-8 tev. 3. Positive Aotion 7-2. 4 ran. ½, dat. (G Moore, Middlersm). Tota: £2.00. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.14. NR: Full O'Prasse, The Mirester.

2.20: 1. PHARARIE (A S Srath) 2-1 fax; 2. Smart Approach 4-1; 3. Rialelessfells 3-1. 7 ran. 1½, 19. (R Woodhouse, York). Tota: £2.40; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £4.40. CSF: £10.27. Tiness: £21.07. Tine: £7.00. NRs: Ballindoo, Touckes. 2.10.27. Incast: £21.07. Inc; £7.00. Nes: Ballindro, Troodos, 2.50: 1. HEAVENLY CITIZEN (B Storey) 16-12: 2. Kenmore-Speed 13-8 fax; 3. Sparrow Hall 9-2. 6 ran. 8, 14. U Gledon, Hertem), Totac £26.80; £7.80, £3.50, DF: £18.10. CSF: £42.57. Tricast: £132.72. NR: Chia Aband Brit. Martinal.

Gale Ahead, Pats Minstrel. 3.20: 1. POINT REVES (N Homocks) 2fav; 2. Nifaet 10-1; 3. Harridecent 9-4, 13 ran, Str.-hd, str.-hd. IC Thomton, Midderami, lote: 22-40; £1-30, £3-50, £1-50, DF: 59-40. CSF: £22,82. Trio; £24.70. NR: Mass Forti-

rs. Placepot: £246.70. Quadpot: £11.00. Place 6: £158.79. Place 5: £100.82.

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.00: 1. MARIONE ROSE (0 Wigfo) 13-2;
2. Sheeki 11-2; 3. (Birs Beet 12-1, 13 ran.
9-4 fav Pirnuis Beim (4th). 1, 1½. (A Beley), Tote: £6.80; £1.80, £2.50, £5-20. D°.
£22.50. CSF: £38.53. Tito: £33.20.
1.30: 1. THREE WEEKS (Dars O'Neil) 7-4 fav. 2. Firisterre 20-1; 3. Yeomae Oliver 20-1, 13 ran. 2½, 5. (W Mult). Tote: £2.20; £1.20, £3.20, £4.40. DP: £43.90. (SSF: £36.36. Weest: £544.59. Tito: £208.90 (rant won).

(part wont. 200: 1. MR FROSTY (S Senders) 11-2; 2. Chadwell Hall 4-1; 3. The Happy Fox 8-1. 12 ran. 2-1 fav Palacegate Jack Hd, 3. NV Jantsi. Teber £6.80; £3.60, £1.70, £1.50. DF: £20.60, CSF: £28.98. Teor. £58.90, NR; Naugat. No 10 (Mattax (25/1))

was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not apply. 2.30: 1 LEXGN CROFTER (R Hughes) 7-4 fav: 2. Blushing Grenadler 12-1; 3. Guill Sheedi 25-1, 12 ran. Nt. 1½. (P Cundell). Tote: £2,40; £1,80, £3,90, £3,30, DP: £25,40, CSF: £24,17, Tricasc: £390.54. Tric E25.40, CSF: \$24.17, Incase 2-50-5, Inc.
156.10 (part Won).
3,00: 1. NOBRORE MIR NICEGITY IA Culnov 8-1. 9 ran. 6-4 fev Double-0 (Sth). 2½.
3, (£ Alston). Tote: £11.20; £3.00, £1.60,
£2.90. DF: £19.20. CSF: £70.72. Triess:
£539.15. Trio: £32.40. NR: Amico. No 7 Amico. (25/12) was withdrawn not under orders.
Rule 4 dress not 8,004.

ico (25/1) was whitever not under orders. Nule 4 does not apply.
3.30: 1. MASTER FOLEY (T G McLaugh-fin) 11-1; 2. Tenry's Rose 16-1; 3. Will To-Win 12-1, 13 ran, Evens fav Lightning Boit.
7. % (N Littmodan). Totas: £15.30; £3.50. £3.60, £3.00. DF: £144.50. CSF: £155.90. £3.60, £3.00. DF: £144.50. CSF: £155.90. £3.60, £3.00. DF: £144.50. CSF: £155.90. 4.00: 1. RASAYE. Mr World Little apply 10-1; 2. Colosse 4-1; f. fay; 3. Solden Hadeer 11-2.

2. Colosse 4-1 ft far, 3. Solden Hadder 11-2 12 ran, 4-1 gtar Konescash, Ho, 5. (P Eure), Tota: £10.10; £2.10, £1.10, £3.20, DF: £21.90, CSF: £54.70, Tropst: £240.16, Trop 4.30: 1. QUINZE MARTIN (S Drowne) 12-1:

4.30: 1. QUINZI MARTIN IS DOWN!) 12-1: 2. Monis 14-1: 3. See Denzig 8-1. 12 ran. 9-4 faw Running Green. 1%, Ind. (D. Haydin Jones). Tota: £11.70: £2.20, £3.20, £3.70. DF: £41.70. £57.70. F1.334.67. Tro: £57.70. Piacepot: £1.102.00. Quadgot: £20.50. Piace 6: £807.73. Piace 5: £303.37.



Outcries have followed bans handed out to jockeys after several hard-fought, big-race finishes this year, notably those given to Frankie Dettori for whip abuse following his victories in both the 2,000 Guineas and St Leger.

The revised instruction, which comes into effect on 1 February, removes the present "ingger mechanism" which tells stewards to consider an inquiry if a jockey uses the whip more than five times. Instead, stewards will have greater discretion to look into "anything which might cause them concern", and have been given examples

use as criteria. Decisions on "excessive" use will be determined by factors such as a horse's experience, its response to the whip and the de-

A survey of raceborse owners

view of a vocal minority who

claim that the sport will perish

unless owners are able to re-

their costs through prize-money. The survey suggests

that owners are prepared to pay

for the fun they get from rac-

ing despite the prospect of lit-tle or no financial reward.

Board/Weatherby's question-

naire revealed that 86 per cent

of owners felt that excitement

and fun were the most impor-

tant reason behind their con-

tinued active participation in

12.50 Star Selection (nb)

Right-hand course with 300rd run-in

1.20 FAIRY KNIGHT (nap)

1.50 Time Leader

2.20 Northern Singe GOING: Good to Soft.

The joint British Horseracing

published today contradicts the £10,000, also found that the so-

cover a greater proportion of lar C1, C2, D and E groups in-

of improper use of the whip to

gree of force used. Vets will be abuse. Now it will be up to the asked to examine all placed vets, which is as it should be." being used sensibly and in a fashion acceptable to onlookers. horses and a random selection of others after a race, although the fact that a horse has not been marked need not prevent the stewards finding that excessive force has been used.

It is stressed, though, that serious breaches of the instructions will bring stricter penalties from the stewards.

Toby Balding, a National Trainers' Federation council member, said: "Some of the instances of jockeys being done were wrong, but the instructions were such that the stewards were put in a difficult position: as soon as a jockey went over the required number of hits they had to have an inquiry.

"This gives the stewards more chance of using their discretion.

Optimism among owners

cial and economic profile of

ownership is changing. The number of white and blue col-

volved in racehorse ownership has increased from 29 per cent of owners to 37 per cent since

the last survey, two years ago.

vast majority of owners are

paying for their involvement in

bias towards the more affluent.

but the ownership base is

widening. Owners are increas-

The survey also found that

ingly working people."

2.50 Halham Tern

In Course is is No city on A49, Hereford station 1m. ADMISSION: Carb 512; Tattersalls 59; Course Enclosure 55. CAR PARK: Prec.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS; M Pipe – 33 winners from 101 runners gives a success ratio of 32.7% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$19.60; N Twiston-Davies – 26 winners, 28 runners, 29.5%, +\$31.80; K Balley – 15 winners, 76 runners, 19.7%, -\$22.69; P Hobbs – 14 winners, 50 runners, 23.7%, +\$1.31.

\$22.69; P Hobbs = 14 winners, 50 runners, 23.7%, +21.31.

II LEADING JOCKETS: D Bridgwater = 20 winners, 112 ricks, 23.2%, +523.48; B Damwoody -19 winners, 64 ricks, 23.7%, +51.4.82; A.P McCoy = 19 winners, 67 ricks, 28.4%, +530.12; C Liewellyn = 19 winners, 68 ricks, 27.9%, +54.26.

BLINIERED FIRST TIME: The Wayward History (2.30).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.

LONG-DISTANCE HUNNERS: My Man In Dundalk (2.50) has been sent 158 miles by B Cunley from Statichworth, Cambridgeshire; Radishow Fountain (3.20) sent 156 miles by N Lampard from Kingshridge, Deven; Night City (12.50) sent 160 miles by Lady Herries from Angenering Park, West Suspect; Dwittys Trail (3.20) sent 116 miles by P Bowen from Haverfordwest, Dyfed. Apatura Hati (3.30) sent 102 miles by R Almer from Droop, Dorset; Bancy's Wolf (3.20) sent 38 miles by N Hawke from Chard, Somerset; Fleet.

Cadet (2.50), Indian Tracker (3.20) & Robert's Toy (3.50) sem 96 miles by M C Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon.

12.50 THYME MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,192

/ LASTO ADDREE (599) (Mass) Newell G Thomer 5 11 5 JAR HERDY (15) (D H. Ammage) A Foster 4 11 5 MIGHT CHY (15) (Deson International Limited Lady Hernes 5 11 5 STAR SELECTION (20) (P. M. Matchell) | Majche 5 11 5

- 12 declared - SETTING: 9-4 Night City, 7-2 Star Selection, 5-1 Supreme Charm, 8-1 Lasto Advec, 10-1 Bramley May, 12-1 Declarations, 15-1 others

PORM GUIDE

A fair performer on the Fist, winning twice, including a handcap by three lengths under

9st 5ib on the soft at Newbury in March first time up this year, NIGHT CITY will have
learned from his hurdling debut, fourth behind Danegold at Windsor two weeks ago. The
son of Kris held every chance two flights out that day on ground plenty fast enough for
him and the cut this time will be to his edventage. Klim Balley's this import Sepresse
Charms, successful in himpers at Sigo in June on his debut and at Belleustown the following month, well be the better for his first run over timber when a 22-length fourth behand Carole's Crussder in a three-miller at Ascot four weeks ago and should not
home over this shorter Journey. Brandley May landed a NH Flat race here in May and
finished a creditable third behind Brave Patriarch at Worcester in June but has not been
out strice. Lasto Adree, almont debut.

1_20 THYME WAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,178

finimum weight: 10st. True handissip weights: Ecu De France, The Cheese Baron Sist 13th. Arelogue Sist

100, Alexant Rose 9st 40. BETTHKE: 7-4 Urban Lily, 3-1 Mabler, 4-1 Colvell, 9-2 Time Louder, 8-1 Lyphant's Fable, 12-1 The

FORM GUIDE

URBAN LILY comes here in great heart and can make at three wins out of four for the section. Ron Hodges' numer best yet Again (winner of his next two races) half a length at Plumpton (heavy) last month on her reoppearance and defeated Paintstaine 24 lengths there last time. In between victories, Liman Lily was body hampered and unseased at the start of Burington. Span's race at Exister, where Time Leader, who went off fewounts, finished second, beaten a length and a half, and Macdam Role was a long way back in fifth. Time Leader has yet to taste success but he also made the frame in his two preceding races and may provide most danger with promising fider kevier Abpour again on board. The recent Ludiow winner Colvail can also figure with the 7th penalty to Machier has not shown a great deal, is on top weight in his first handloop and has not been out since April.

Cheese Berne, 14-1 others 1995: Hightown Caseller 4 10 8) Hamis 7-2 (R Hodgad) 13 ran

10 114 SUPPERME CHARM (28) (P) Vogo K Baley 4 115.
11 POOD-PP WOODLANDS LAD FOO (LO) (Woodlands Led) P Princherd 4 115.
2 0060-P AMAZON HERRIES (T) Samon Gegg) 1 Gressork 4 11 D.
23 0-69 SHADY EMBO (42) (D Pugit F Jordon 4 11 0.

May, 12-1 Destainations, 16-1 others 1995: Crack On 5 11 5 G McCourt 5-4 (P Hobbs) 13 ran months capti

3.20 Wandering Light

Lee Richardson, the BHB's

The survey, which cost only six per cent of owners

marketing director, said: "The major factor. However, prize-

earned income. There is still a positive action."

The Jockeys' Association sec-retary, Michael Caulfield, said:

"We hope the new instruction results in fewer suspensions and greater understanding of a delicate and difficult issue "Jockeys will be pleased that

the 'trigger figure' has been removed as this has resulted in many unnecessary suspensions." The Jockey Chub's disciplinary committee chairman. Christopher Hall, admitted that

adverse media comment on

suspensions had helped lead to

the search for a new instruction. "We were already reviewing the use of the whip but there is no doubt that the press coverage concentrated the mind," he said. "Jockeys' use of the whip has improved greatly and we were satisfied that the whip is

90 per cent still expect to be own-

ing horses in three years, with 50

per cent expecting to own more

Association, said: "Generally

this is encouraging. The econ-

omy has picked up, which is a

money still remains a matter of

concern to owners and requires

Racecourses and trainers

were credited by the majority of

owners as giving value for mon-

ey. They also felt that race-

horses than they do today.

"But the counting mechanism

was never fully understood and on occasions has led to people being called for an inquiry when nothing has happened, which would offend anyone. Now the first question for a steward will be whether there is anything in a jockey's riding which causes concern if he sees too much use of the whip or too excessive use then they will look at it."

However, Caulfield is worned that giving stewards discretion may be a mixed blessing for jockeys. "We still remain concerned with the Jockey Club's definition of excessive frequency," he said. "We fear the new instruction could continue to result in unjust and unnecessary suspensions to the detri-

Sound out of King George

Sound Man, who had been secclaimed to cover costs but that ond favourite for the King George VI Chase, is likely to miss the Boxing Day feature despite being one of 11 horses de-John Paxman, Director Gen-eral of the Racehorse Owners clared yesterday. Edward O'Grady, his trainer, said: "He will go now for the Comet

Chase at Ascot on 5 February. The withdrawals are Challenger Du Luc, Crystal Spirit, Kadi, Suny Bay and Double Symphony. Jenny Pitman has left in Nahthen Lad despite a poor effort on Wednesday.

Total: 4-8 One Man, 100-30 Rough Quest (from 9-2), 12-1 Mr Mulligan (from 14-1). Strong Promise, Tyring Agan, 14-1 Berton Benk (from 16-1), 25-7 Marthen Led (from 16-1), Agan, Couldn't Be Better, 150-1 Oetis Regrets.

course facilities had improved. 2.20 CARAWAY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m Penalty Value £2,996

SCOTTISM BAMBI exhad his first success over fences at the second attenuat off a man SCOTTISH BAMBII gained his first success over fences at the second attempt off a mark of 78 when bearing the subsequent source Poucher 10 lengths here four weeks agp. Paul Webber's runner is penalised 7th for that, putting him on 12st 6th and he races off a 25th higher mark but the opposition is far from formitable and he can defy the hefly burden. The surject-old, who was a Flat winner for Richard Harmon's yard in hit younger days, followed an exercise with a 17-length second to Flight Lieutenant at Warwick and he found success again when defeating the 3-1-on chance Cheryl's Lad a length and a half at at Ludlow 11, days ago. Northern Singler, a hurdes winner at Uttower in Merch, finished a 22-length third to Scottish Bambi here when making his fending debut. He must progress and should finish a lot closer this time. Asknowed Resultion, a faller at Chetenbam in October on his opening outing this season, was beaten 23 lengths by Chickabildly at Teumton (only three finished) and was carried out in Scottish Bambi's race at this course.

Selection: SCOTTISH BAMBI

250 COWSLIP SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,052

_		
1		APPLIANCED/SCIENCE (558) (K O Warrer) K Warner 9 11 12
2	23312-0	HALNAM TARM (7) (H.) Manners) H Manners 6 11 5
3		LAJADHAL (FR) (382) (P D Purdy) K Bishop 7 11 5 Herety
4	1070-40	SCOTTISH WEDDING (21) (D) (G Westren, Reynolds & Deart) T Wall 6 11 0 R Messey (3)
5	00 0-0 00	BOLD CHARLE (20) (Ms.) Harrisworth) S Mallor 4:10:12
6	46	COMEDNUT (5) (M & Caver) J Bradley 5 10 12
7	402241	PLEET CADET (5) (Sir John Swains) M Pige 5 10 12A P McCoy V
8	D/	MY MAN IN DURINGALK (1,000) (Mrs B Curtey) B Curtey 7 10 12
9	00PF50/	MORDIC PUGNT (632) (Lycrishall Racing) R Epiloy 8 10 12
10	9	STEVE'S WORDER (13) (Gay Mills) B Liencelyn 6 10 12
1	SOSR4R	TERES BAN (16) TMcs C M Lord A Berroy 7 10 12
12	2 POP	PERSIAN BUTTERPLY (9) (David Hallung) R Stronge 4 10 7
1	1 DC-00PP	WOODLANDS ENERGY (10) (Noodlands Ltd) P Pritchard 5 10 7
		- 13 declared -
_		Control of the later to the control of the control

Despite dufting in the betting – 5-2 to 4-1 – at leicester (good to soft) nine days ago, FLEET CADET came home a decistive winner of a similar race and he looks set to supplement the gains in another weak contest. Hallman Tame, winner of a hardle race at Kempton in 1993 when trained by Devid Esworth, landed a hunter chase at Leicester in the spring and followed with a second in the same type of race to King's Tressure at Chetenham, bester 23 lengths. He was tailed off when he blundered and unseated four out in the handleap chase won by Beasson at on a return to Presthury Park a week ago but will be fatter now. All the she ran well when fourth to Standfast Elite at Worcester on her return and both that and her subsequent unplaced Bangor run were in non-sellers. Applicateochaclence was successful at Market Resen and Harmongton the season before last but was publed up at the topical and full transfer in June of last year and, being without a race since, tooks certain to need this one.

3.20 COMFREY MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £3,200 3PO(0-3 AMYDHINSYOULINE (29) (Bowling Green George Left C Smith 7 11 5 4440P9 DUSTYS TRAEL (105) (C Monte) P Bowlen 7 11 5

Nici Day Chaser, who makes he introffing bow, won bumpers on her debut at Doncaster a year ago and on her firel start at Warwick (in a field of 25) in May and was placed in both attempts in between. She is an interesting hunding recruit, but then again so is DARMT and the latter, for whom Torry McCoy has been booked, must be the choice. Darmf, who was due to make his hurding debut at lest Saturday's shandoned Haydock meeting, were a good Pat performer when in John Gosden's stable last year, deed-heating with Tharmas Skid when conying JOst in a Newbury hundicap in July white he ran Spilo to three-parts of elength at Doncaster in September, shouldering Bet 10b. He changed hands for 100,000grs and is now with Frank Jordan. Fairly Knight was also useful on the level, winning at Goodwood and Redoar in 1995 and at Assot and Leicester this year. Trained by Richard Hannon, who has done well with his few hundies over the years. Pairly Knight finathed well beatan against. Hoh Warmer at Nawbury last month on his first outing over timber but finished a seven-length fourth to Danegold at Windsor and that form may be oversivedowed by Night City in the first leg of this contest.

INDIAN TRACKER, winner of a Lingleid (soft) bumper by 1.1 lengths last March, has not been out since and makes his chasting debut but will not lack for fitness, coming from Marth Pipe's yeard and is also sure to know his new job. The six-year-old is not highly their and can start his new career successfully. July Boat, who landed three point-to-points this year, went from 8-1 to beine those odds when making his chasting debut here a formight ago and went mont 8-1 to twice trace close when meaning are creaming each area a consider each and finished a 22-length fourth behind Mariners Mirror. He is bound to progress for that during and may provide most danger. Mount Serreth, a remore third to Med Thyme on his fenc-ing bow at Wincardon the seeson before last, began 1995-96 with a twise-length second to Samilee at Tauriton but fell in both subsequent starts that season. Bestern seven lengths by Don Du Cadran here on his return, he blundered and unseated at the first at Humingdon but will be winning when he positives up his jumping - a remark which also applies to Ramastown Lad, who was an hish point-to-point winner in 1995. Brogeen Lady will have benefited from her promising chasing debut fourth to Credo is King at Townester.

3.50 ROSEMARY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,857

BETTERS: 6-4 Hay Dense, 9-2 Robert's Toy, 5-1 Mashelin Star, 6-1 Salley, 7-1 Worlads, 8-1 Bi etschkom Bard, 12-1 others 1996: Conto Hill 8 9 10 7 Desponde 5-1 (R Hodges) 9 ran

HAY DANCE, an Irish acquisition, went in at Taunton in November and is only a pound high-HAY DANCE, on hish acquisition, went in at Taunton in November and is only a pound higher here racing off the same mark as when besten a length and a half by the useful Aenon at Sendown. Philip Hobbs' five-year-old can return to winning form with Norman Williamson booked for the ride. Roberts Tey won over fences here on his final appearance lest see-son and at Market Rasen on his return. But he was a failer near time and, after frishing talled off at Evester in August, has reverted to hurding, going under only a neck to Hendoon at Chehranham on his most recent outing. He is 2th higher but could pose the main threat. Wadadas rarely rims a bad rease and was returning from a three-month break which third behind the gambled-on Barford Sovereign at Faisenham eligin days ago. Salleg is enother consistent type and followed lest month's Plumpton (soft) victory with seconds to Canary Fatoon at Kempton and Danegold at Windsor.

- 18 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Stonecutter, 7-2 Spiral Payer, 5-1 How Could-L 7-1 Flash in The Pass, 8-1 Arch Angel, Lebedinski, 14-1 others. Mighty Moss GOING: Soft. Left-hand course. Butt-in of 170yd. Course is SE of town near ESO17. Uncourser readon (Declay. Crewe line) adjoins course, ADMISSION: Club \$15 (OAPs \$12). Tattersuffs \$10 (OAPs \$7); Course \$3, CAR PARE: Pre-2.40 ST MODWEN CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £8,500 added 2m BLINERED FIRST TIME: Indian Samet, Tathesis (decred, 2.10). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Coole Cherry (3.40) has been sext 180 miles by C R Barwell from Stoodielgh, Deven. - 4 declared -BETTING: 6-4 Mister Oddy, 9-4 Native Mission, 5-2 Random Assault, 7 | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT TRACES | 1 | SAPAT T 1.10 STREBEL BOILERS & RADIATORS HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m ~ 8 deciared — ETTING: 2-1 Heat Equal, 5-2 Solut Clai, 4-1 Tejano Gold, 6-1 Moring Mismum seight 10s: The handsip reight: Bossmoss 9st 13b, Homery Blues 9s: 50, Ragged KngSom 9s: 3b, 9s:TIMO: 5-2 Ocean Leader, 3-1 Coverdale Lane, 7-1 Majors Legacy, 8-1 Bossymoss, Wiffles Bar, 10-1 George Addord, 13-1 others 1.40 (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 4f (CLASS D) £5,100 20000 201 91 2/1041-1 GBM (15) Men H Rogis 51 6 ... 2 Sendor 21 MANOR LOOK (200) \$\tilde{C}\$ Broberine 8 11 4 ... 2 Sendor 3P(32 SUNSET AND VINE (11) I Casey 9 11 0 ... 3 Demondor A123 THE RESULVENING (20) I Termon Long 9 11 0 ... A Region 2/21-5 THE RESULVENING (20) TERMON LOUG 9 11 0 ... A Region 0/22-813 2ASTOON (14) D Netroson 5 11 0 ... A Region 0/2-522 SLEMATE (16) Arctive Namel 7 10 9 ... S. Michiell 0/2-522 SLEMATE (16) Arctive Namel 7 10 9 ... S. Michiell 0/2-523 SLEMATE (16) Arctive Namel 7 10 9 ... S. Michiell 0/2-523 SLEMATE (16) Arctive Namel 7 10 9 ... S. Michiell 0/2-524 SLEMATE (16) Arctive Namel 7 10 9 ... S. Michiell 0/2-525 SLEMATE (16) Arctive Namel 7 10 9 ... S. Mic 3.40 EBF "NH" NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

1.10 Most Equal 1.40 Oban 2.10 Flash in The Pan 2.40 Mister Oddy 3.10 Ocean Leader 3.40

BETTING: 5-2 Oben, 7-2 Take The Backsids, 5-1 Senset And Whin, 9-1. Thursday Hight, Zalkoon, 7-1 Signatic, 10-1 Major Look

2.10 BURTON ALBION FC NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 3YO 2m

HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 3YO 2xo

OF APPEL ADAR (22) D BUTSEI 10 10. But Lands CD

OF DOY BUTSEI (25) Mrs 5 Smith 10 10. But Lands CD

F COME ON IN (20) R Dobn 10 10. Chamble

O BUTHE SUMSET (114) C Egyton 10 10. L A McCardyn B

P NOBOCK HERD D22 A Janus 10 10. C Dunds D

O NORTHERN DIAMOND (16) Mrs M Roward 10 10. But Junes

P4 PALLTON (20) N Beton 10 10. R Research

REDOUNDER D Rench David 10 10. R Regions V

53 STONECUTTER (18) M Charmon 10 10. R Regions V 2.00 ST NICHOLAS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m 53-F.77 HIGHLAND WAY (11) (CD) M Tochurler 8 12 0 ___ A \$ Smith OUPP-21 REMO \$ABO (17) (D) C Parter 4 11 11 _____ D Perfor 570 - SRUMFON (286) D MOTES 5 11 7 ___ D J MOTES 6 8 ROCCENT GEORGE (1A) Mas L Social 7 11 7 __ A Debhir 502-3 REME COMES HERRE (113) W Scorey 4 11 3 ___ M Moloney 0050 SECALA (14) J J O'N-8 5 11 2 ____ P Mores 1055 00 12.30 Dana Point 1.00 Paperising 1.30 Bold Ac-count 2.00 Kemo Sebo 2.30 Yacht Club 3.00 Westwell Boy 3.30 First Light SOUNG: Soft.

Left-hand, undulating course. Run-in of 250yd.

Course is on uthor road 2m 5 of Hexham. ADMI

SP; Paddock £6 (OAPs £4). CAR PARK: Free.

2.30 CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HUR-RUNKERED FIRST TIME: Calder King (12.30), Nasvetmonkey (2.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Pata Minstrel (3.00) has been see.
255 rules by E Champion from Newsparket, Saffall. DLE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m 4f 110yds 12.30 MINCE PIE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 21 DANA PORT (18) (D) Mrs S Smith 4 11 5 R Wile

3.00 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f

15-0P06 GALA WATER (18) (CD) T Dun 10 10 4

BETTERE: 7-4 Highry Moss, 5-2 Baggars Banquet, 9-2 Agistment, 7-1 Store Options, 34-1 Apr. Even, 20-1 Barton Wand, 25-1, others

3.30 LEVY BOARD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m 3 DORBY GRANT (23) C Grant 5 11 4 3- DERANNE (292) G Richards 4 11 4 22 First Light (28) J Quinn 4 11 4 ROYAL SPRUCE G M Moore 5 11 4. 02- SER BOB (288) W McKepun 4 11 4 ... SMOOTY ESKINO J Haltime 4 11 4. 0 TOP ACE (17) G White 4 11 4. ...K Wholen O OTTADOM (17) W Reed 4 10 13

- 6 declared -BETTRIC: 9-4 Thresplay, 3-1 Figlia, 4-1 Enger To Pleasa, 5-1 Heart Mics, 6-1 Melbourne Princess, 8-1 Whisper Low

1.45 LE REVE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f (AW)

E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 000-P61 ELIDITS WERL (29) (5) H Norwen 5 115 ... A Dobble
2 23-4243 BOLD ACCOUNT (5) 6 M Moore 6 10 12 M Benthey
3 4f43 BONEN JOHNEN (6) D Mofast 6 10 12 D 1 Mofast
5 5313-P FRE FLASS (275) Mes S Smith 8 10 12 ... R Wilkinson (7)
6 207235- LIEN DE FRAMILE (201) J Quinn 6 10 12 ... P Niven
7 2-52403 ROYAL SUPPRISE (21) M Read 9 10 12 ... T Read 8
8 21/000-0 SREERIC (23) S Bet 6 10 12 ... K Johnson
9 065/21-P WORLD WITNEUT (END (10) M Soversby 7 10 12 ... D Parker
9 declared BETTINE; 9-4 Lien De Fraelin, 11-4 Celtic Glord, 3-1 Beld Account, 8-1
Benny Johnsy, Elliott's West, 10-1 Royal Surprise, 12-1 others

APLESIENCE HA HYPERION 11.45 Harlequin Walk 12.15 Princess Sarara 12.45 Stalled 1.15 Threeplay 1.45 Kings Harmony 2.15 Father Dan 2.45 Roffey Spinney 3.15 Greatest GOING: Standard. STALLS: 5/ & 1m - outside; rest - inside.

3-40 OLD CRIALER (1.4) J O'Nell 5 10 12 P Neve OS SAMITE (1.7) S Leacheur 5 10 12 R Leach OS SOUTH CRAST STAR (2.6) J H Lohnson 6 10 12 R Figur (5) OOPO-06 MY MISSILE (5) R Codoum 6 10 7 L O'Nelsa OOO TUSHBIA HOUSE (7) B Elison 5 10 7 G Caldin

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints.

Equirack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of Lown on B2018. ADMISSION: Members \$13, sare SS. CAR PARK: Chib S3; remainder free. WISORED FIRST TIME: Melbourne Princess (1.15).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Mijas (1.45), Absolutelystmating (2.16) & Shanghal LB (2.16) was here on Prings.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Shoutakes (2.16) has been seen 270 miss by M Johnston from Middleham, North Yorkshire; Mindrina (1.45) sent 288 miles by J Berry from Cockerham, Lancashire.

12.15 SARAH CHAPMAN 21ST B'DAY MAIDEN STAKES (D) (DIV I) £3,500 2YO 1m (AW)

12.45 HOTSPUR AMATEURS LIMITED STAKES (CLASS G) £2,000 added 1m 4f (AW) (CLASS G) £2,000 added 1.m 4F (AW)
000214 CROSS TILK (27) R Strong 4 10 9 ... Mr J Devisent (7) 12
3X30; AL MAL (1858) R O'Sulies 7 10 7 ... Mr J Devisent (7) 12
5105-05 CAN CAN GMRHE (7) J Pessos 5 10 7 ... Mr J Boldstein (7) 3
5105-05 CAN CAN GMRHE (7) J Pessos 5 10 7 ... Mrs. L Pessos 1, 0-11256 CAN CAN GMRHE (25) (20) R J Pessos 5 10 7 ... Mrs. L Pessos 1, 0-11256 CAN CAN GMRHE (25) (20) R Pessos 5 10 7 ... Mrs. S C Pessosk (7) 4
500000 PIMBER (15) (20) R PRESC 10 10 7 ... Mrs. S C Pessosk (7) 4
500000 PIMBER (20) R J PESSOS (10) T ... Mrs. Mrs. P J Soc. S 5 STALED (21) (20) P Web; 16 10 7 ... Mrs. Mrs. R Pessosk (7) 8
205546 ZIMO FLYER (77) A Micros 4 10 7 ... Mrs. A Pessot (7) 8
0-65300 ALISURA; (83) D Thom 3 9 13 ... Miss J Moore (5) 11

115 WITCH OF ENDOR CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £2,200 added 2YO 5f (AW) 61.000 EAGER TO FUSINE (7) (C) Mays & Rickery 9.3 _D Holin 300526 THRESPLAY (7) | Alehuss 9.3 _D Holin 10.4350 HEAVENLY (8) | Alehuss 9.3 _D Holin 10.4350 HEAVENLY (8) | Alehuss 9.3 _Smot 0.400 Wilsspire 1.09 (24) R Holinstand 8.6 _WR

2.15 ATROPOS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £1,700 added 1m 2f (AW) 2332 HOHER DAN (7) (20 BP) Mas 6 relevay 7 9 12 D Holls
001100 ARZAM (5) (70) 0 Cosgons 5 9 9 J Quito
000000 REA GEN (5) (70) 0 Cosgons 5 9 9 J Quito
0000000 REA MORA (38) R. Alekars 4 8 13 S Sandar
0000005 RANDRA (38) R. Alekars 4 8 13 S Sandar
000001 SHANGHA (12) (7) (5) M F-Godiny 4 8 13 (5m) "F Norto
00001 ARSOLINELYSTURBANG (7) (50) Mrs 8 Nameg 3 8 11. 200000 ADEJIV (55) J Bridger 4 8 8.
30-0000 MERIA TID (181) (50) 8 Paisca 4 8 7.
50040 Presider (18004) (13) 9 Paisca 4 8 7.
50040 Presider (18004) (17) 10) 1 Jung 8 8 5.
045059 PARE ELLA (500) 6 L Moon 4 8 3.
600000 PAROMOMASIA (17) J L Haris 4 8 3.
600000 REEM (FEMER (28) 0 Adultimed 3 8 1.
600400 LAHRI (5) K Moy 3 8 0. HETTING: 3-1 Pather Day, 7-2 Ab ier League, 12-1 others 2.45 SARAH CHAPMAN 21ST BIRTHDAY MAID-EN STAKES (D) (DIV II) £3,500 240 1m (AW) 5 1704 (180) 8 Smart 8 9,.. - 10 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Rolley Spinery, 7-2 Soura, 6-1 Feether Bed, 7-1 Chyung Lochiana, 8-1 Trevor Mitchell, Around Fore Alisa, 12-1 Others 3.15 (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,200 7F (AW) - 16 declared -BETTING: 5-1 Greatest, 6-1 Purple Ping, 7-1 Star Talcat, 8-1 Teorits, Miles, 18-1 Deeply Vale, 14-1 others

- 11. doclared
Markourn weight: 10st. True handicep weights: Ashmed Rambier 9st 12th, Captain Stockford, Caracol,
The Wayward Bishop, Pandord's Price 9st 50.

BETTINE: 6-4 Scottlish Bandi, 5-1 Ashmed Rambier, 6-1 II Bandino, Northern Singler, 7-1 Dunpicks View, 8-1 Bold Acre, 12-1 others

1995: Devet Chance 9 10 4 A Tory 12-1 (R Hodges) 8 ran 1.00 HOLLY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 1.30 ROAST TURKEY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds

sport

Found wanting for a touch of fortune

Phil Shaw looks at Frank Clark's forlorn attempt to live with the legacy of Brian Clough as Nottingham Forest's manager

Barely a month has passed since Frank Clark was telling people that Nottingham Forest needed a few wins before the takeover of the club was completed. Otherwise, he added with a wry smile, someone else would be spending the money put up by the successful consortium.

Clark's resignation, after he apparently failed to secure assurances about his future as manager, demonstrates once again that many a true word is spoken in jest. Yet although he leaves Forest propping up the Premiership and without a win since the season's opening day, any rounded assessment of his three and a half year tenture at the City Ground should not

judge him too harshly.
For it was Clark who, while hardly the people's choice to succeed Brian Clough, immediately restored Forest to the top flight. More than that, he led them to third place in the Premiership the next season. Then, after other English clubs had fallen by the wayside, they reached the last eight of the Uefa Cup less than a year ago.

Strange as it may seem in the light of yesterday's developments, Clark was being seriously considered at that time by the Football Association as a successor to Terry Venables as the rest of his career. The board, ironically, reacted by pledging to keep him well into the next century.

They had surprised many people, not least Clark, by plucking him from his pinstriped desk job as managing di-rector of Leyton Orient. The too-good-to-go-down Forest team had just been relegated, Clough had retired, and two of their prime assets, Roy Keane

Frank Clark fact-file 9 Sep 1948; Born Hejidekt, Co Dubers, 1968; Pairs Cup winner with Newcastle May 1978; Julined Forest etter 388 League appearances for Newcastle. May 1963; Orient manager. 1968; Promotion to old Third Della

1996: Pinish third and set Premier Lea record of 25 unbesten matches.

and Nigel Clough, were intent

their transfers to fund the signings of a raw young striker from Southend and an unsung centre-back from Millwall. Stan Collymore and Colin Cooper not only helped Forest back up but went on to represent Engmanager of England. Stuart land alongside Pearce, whom Pearce publicly announced that the new incumbent had per-Clark ought to stay at Forest for suaded to stick with the club.

Two other transactions. bringing David Phillips and Lars Bohinen to the East Midlands, seemed to confirm Clark as a shrewd manipulator of the market. The impression was cemented by the initial success of Bryan Roy but, like the Dutchman's impact, Clark's touch deserted him.

As the Notingham Evening Post put it in an unsigned edi-torial yesterday: "If a manager lives and dies by his results and by his dealings in the transfer market, then Frank Clark's departure from the City Ground is overdue... A manager can only be allowed so many mistakes when it comes to buying and sell-ing. His decision to resign might be viewed as the right one."

Clark's predecessor used to mock his own knack of buying strikers who could not score. As Peter Ward, Justin Fashanu and Ian Wallace were to the Clough era, so Roy, Andrea Silenzi, Kevin Campbell and Dean Saunders came to symbolise Clark's

increasingly patchy record.

The Post pointed out that, in financial terms, Campbell's 11 goals had so far cost Forest £227,000 each; Silenzi's two set them back £900,000 apiece; and Saunders' two a mere £750,000 each. The Croatian defender Nikola Jerkan has also failed to make an impact, prompting the paper to call Clark's judgment "remarkably flawed."

injury but it did not help decide whether there had been negli-

gence. He said he had adopted

the stance that an "ordinary,

reasonable" spectator would take as to whether the tackle

was negligent or reckless - or

whether there had been an er-

ror of judgment or lapse of skill.

Wales policeman who was the

match assessor producing a re-

port on the abilities of the lines-

men and referee, told the judge in his view the tackle was among

the worst three he had ever seen.

He said Cornforth's right foot

Bobby Gould, the Wales

was two feet above the ball.

Walter Williams, a South



End game: Frank Clark directs Forest's play for what proved to be the last time in Tuesday's defeat at Liverpool

With hindsight, however, the key moment in Clark's reign was the sale of Collymore to Liverpool. The player felt he had outgrown the club and was not popular in the dressing-room. Yet, without his goals, Forest could not operate their counterattacking system to the same effect. Even their limited success in Europe was achieved largethrough backs-to-the-wall

Clark's cause was not helped, either, by a serious injury to Steve Stone, another who progressed to international status under his wing, or by Pearce's evident staless after the exersions of Euro 96. Like Jason Lee's ridiculed hairstyle, Forest's fortunes went pineapple shaped. From being

the team who established the Premiership's longest unbeaten run (25 games), they now hold the record for matches without a win

To his credit, Clark never used the impasse over the buyout of Forest as an excuse for their failings on the pitch, though it clearly tied his hands in terms of bringing in fresh

faces and had an unsettling effect on confidence. In what proved to be his final match, Tuesday's 4-2 defeat at Liverpool, Collymore twisted the knife by scoring twice. After-wards, Clark likened his own and the club's situation to be-

Perhaps, though, they are merely fulfilling their role in the

scheme of things prior to Clough's unprecedented and unrepeatable success that of the modestly resourced provincial club destined to flit between the top two divisions. Unless the new owners are extremely judicious, or lucky in their choice of successor, Clark's sojourn at Forest may come to be seen as

£250,000 award for foul that ruined career

The former Stockport player Brian McCord was yesterday awarded an estimated £250,000 damages by a High Court judge for a tackle which broke his leg and ended his career.

It is the first time a judge has awarded compensation to a professional player for injuries received during a game - a move which is likely to cause a

major impact on all sport. Mr Justice Ian Kennedy found that the then Swansea City captain, John Cornforth, had made an error when he challenged McCord for the ball during Swansea's game against Stockport in March, 1993.

Cord's right leg ruled him out of the game and he is now study- been made of the severity of the

ing to become a physiotherapist.
"I am delighted with the judgment," McCord said. "I have been on income support since the accident and I was 100 per cent sure taking this action was

clubs so that they can meet the

1999 deadline for ground safe-

ister, yesterday reaffirmed the

Government's commitment to

deliver the Taylor Report rec-

ommendations on the 1989 Hills-

borough disaster in three years' time as another report detailed

the Football Trust's cash crisis.

Iain Sproat, the Sports Min-

ty improvements.

Clubs back restructuring

Peace broke out yesterday as nine-man body, were put to a lower division clubs backed plans for the restructuring of the Football League.

Representatives of 69 of the 72 Nationwide League clubs met for an extraordinary general meeting in central London to discuss the new set-up. Some Second and Third Division clubs had been concerned over the power that some larger First Division clubs might wield.

However, when the measures, which will see the present sixman bound of directors replaced by an independently chaired

the right thing to do." McCord's solicitor, John Eng-

land, said the judgment was a landmark because there was no system for players to obtain compensation for injuries received during games. He said: "It is a very important judgment which will have great ramifications throughout all professional sports. I believe it is time for the sporting bodies to devise some system of compensation

The judge said much had tor's box with Williams, said in his opinion Comforth intended to strike the player not the ball.

"It was one of the worst tackles I have ever seen," Gould said. The judge said he bad listened to the evidence of Gould vote, it is understood that dissent and Williams, and to the eviwas confined to single figures. dence of Comforth that the tackle did carry a risk of serious The Government have urged the Premier League to give fiinjury if there was any misnancial support to lower division

judgment of the timing. He said he could understand the many witnesses who said Comforth was playing the man and not the ball but "that was not my conclusion", particularly having heard about his good reputation. However, the judge ruled that the tackle was "inconsistent" with taking reasonable care and it was one occasion when his skill "deserted him".

Argentina

All is not well in Argentina, where the national team are singularly failing to dominate South America's World Cup qualifying group - despite the absence of their great rivals Brazil, who as holders are not required to qualify.

Their fallen, former captain Diego Maradona, says Argen-tina will fail to qualify for the World Cup after their dismal -1 draw at home to Chile last World Cup, Maradona said on Monday. Daniel Passarella [the coach] talks about guts and determination - but the team did not produce one single, well-

trained move," he said. Maradona also hit out at Passarella's hard-line approach chuded much-publicised bans on players having long hair and wearing earrings. Sunday's drawleft Argentina fifth in the nine-team South American group, from which the top four qualify for France 98.

Colombia, Paraguay, Ecuador

and Uruguay currently fill the

qualifying positions. Albania

A key figure in Argentina's glory days, Mario Kempes, has become the first foreign coach in Albanian football history. The man whose goals helped his country to World Cup glory in 1978 is the new coach of the Albanian First Division club, Lushnja. Kempes has agreed to a the Islamic sharia law

around the world

a few television reports about this country. Lusting are in a lowing 10th place in the league, despite signing three foreign players earlier in the year two Brazilians and a Nigerian.

Saudi Arabia have reached the final of the Asian Cup they play the host nation, the United Arab Emirates, in Abu Dhabi tomorrow-despite the absence of the man who put his country on the world football map at USA 94.

tournament were rocked when their top forward Saced Al-Owairan - who scored a superb individual goal against Belgium at the 1994 Wedd Cap— and two other players were suspended by the trational football association. The trio were said to have been found at a party. drinking and mixing with women. Both indulgences are banned in Saudi Arabia under

The Sandis reached their fourth Asian Cup finaline sub-cession with a 4-3 penalty-shoot out win over frant after a goalless draw in extra time on Wednesday. They won the competition in 1984 and 1988, and were beaten by Japan in the 1992 final

Saudi Arabia are the clear worth about £180,000, which

favourities aomorrow even though they are meeting the lost nation, who best Kiwait 1-U our Wednesday to reach their first final in the councertaints of locals for in the same of locals for in the same and of locals for in the same and of locals for in the

this season, it seems that not all Barcelona faus are enamowed with their distinguished English coach, Bobby Robson. Chib employees have had had to whitewash over grafitti aimed at Robson and the ciub board on the walls of the Non Camp stadium.

Robson go home," read a comment written in English. The former England manager was also advised to retire to an Saudi preparations for the old people's home, and was compared unfavouarbly to Barcelona zoo's famous albino gorilla, "Snowflake".

"More Catalans and less trash," said another piece of the graffiti. The arrival of numezous foreigners at Barcelona has led to the exclusion of local players such as Albert Fer-rer, who has been approached by Real Madrid. .

Rupert Metcalf

Harriers set to pull the crowds

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

Although police restrictions and the oddities of the fixture computer mean that Christmas holiday derbies are out of fashion in the Football League, that is not the case in the non-League world, where some big crowds and highly-charged matches are guaranteed during the next few days.

Kidderminster Harriers, 11 points clear at the top of the GM Vauxhall Conference, may well be watched by two attendances of over 3,000 in their Diamonds tomorrow and in the Worcestershire derby at home to Bromsgrove Rovers on Boxing Day. Rushden will also be attracting the fans in large numbers on Thursday, when they travel to their Northamptonshire rivals Kettering Town.

Boxing Day derbies in the Dr Martens League include the leaders, Gresley Rovers, making the short trip to Burton Al-bion, and Cheltenham Town playing at Gloucester City.

The UniBond League lead-

ers, Leek Town, are under new management, having promoted Peter Ward from assistant man-ager following Phil Wilson's departure to Northwich Victoria. Another UniBond managerial appointment sees Gordon Raynor, formerly in

charge at Guiseley and Bradford Park Avenue, succeed Alan Tinsley at Lancaster City.

In the Icis League, Fred Callaghan, once in charge at Brentford, has taken over in a caretaker capacity at Carshalton Athletic in place of Tony Jen-nings, the former England semiprofessional team manager. Brian Sparrow's second spell as manager of the Dr Martens club Crawley Town lasted just 13 days - the former Crystal Palace defender missed two training sessions and was unable to travel to a fixture at Merthyr Tydfil

during his brief spell in charge. For the last five years, the hardy band of non-League followers known as groundhoppers have descended on the northeast of England every Easter for the "Northern Hop", watching three or four games per day over the holiday period. That event has come to an end - they have run out of new grounds - but the groundhoppers can now head west instead.

The Westward Developments Devon League are putting on an "Easter Hop" every year for the rest of the decade with fixtures on 28 and 29 March next year at Alphington, Newton Abbot Spurs. Teignmouth, Buckfastleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Newton St Cyres and Willand. Further details from the Devon League secretary, Phil Hiscox: 01392

Ruddles County Riddles.

Reddles County.

He did not know behind

which door (they were

marked I end 2) lay which

No. 13. Pub Challenge.

For Peter Bernsworthy it of the doors, lay the prize, was a dream come true. He had a voucher for unlimited

six graelling rounds. But his victory was by

no means final. He had yet

Pub Quiz Championship after

to claim the prize. He was placed in the

ber of the Queen's Head Pab in Westcott. There were

two doors, such landing to different rooms. Bebind one that one of the barmen had

eccess to the love of his life-Pater stepped forward, The challenge was set.

> his enswer confidently strode through door 1 to

prize. Beside each door stood a bermen to help him basy to tall as how he

However, the catch was

been instructed to lie, but Peter did not know which.

asked one of the mon a question, and upon hearing

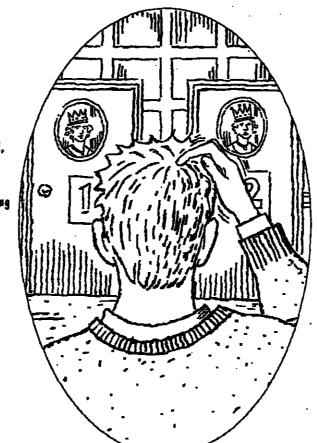
Pater is of course too

he worked it out?

I well seeds used a seed at seal larve bloom \$ tody yet less these at larve \$ tody and larve \$ tody and larve be seed with out of our A \$1.7.5 seed" where standing bloom \$ tody larve beautiful larve \$ tody to the seed of the part of tody and tody

decide which door to choose. worked out which door to choose. Do you know how

claim his voucher.



Cotton to select extra Lions

Rugby Union

Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, intends taking a massive squad of 35 players on next year's tour of South Africa, five more than the traditional

touring party.

Despite a 13-match programme, Cotton wants extra back-up on the spot in specialist positions rather than flying players out in injury emergencies.
"It is essential we are able to field sides of Test-match strength throughout the tour," said Cotton, who has just returned from

a 10-day fact-finding trip to South Africa, "Our intention is to match the World Cup holders in every facet of the game." Another break with tradition is that the squad will be named at the end of March, rather than on the mid-March weekend

when the Five Nations ends. Phil de Gianville is set to return after a thigh injury ruled him out of last Saturday's England match against Argentina. He has been named in the Bath side for the start of their defence of the Pilkington Cup against London Irish at the Recreation Ground tomorrow.

De Gianville's England col-league, stand-off Mike Catt, misses the match. He has chest and shoulder injuries and expects to be sidelined for three weeks. Richard Butland comes in.

Referees are still talking with senior officials of the Welsh Rugby Union in a last-ditch attempt to avert a boycott of fixtures this

Some leading matches look likely to go ahead, despite the strike by the Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees over pay. but the programme still faces decimation with the dispute far from

Tibbs dismasted in heavy seas

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

A new mast and rigging was being shipped to New Zealand last night after a yacht in the amateur-crewed BT Challenge was dismasted on the second leg of

the round the world race. Chris Tibbs' Concert saw the 85-foot mast break above the first "spreaders", the cross trees through which the wire rigging runs to hold up the mast. None of the 14 crew was injured, and with 20 feet of the mast re-

the crew to fix a jury rig and set the fact that the yacht was on some sail. The yacht is 1500 miles south

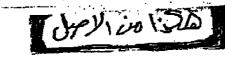
and east of the Chatham Islands, and 420 miles from its destination, Wellington, where it should arrive by 31 Decemof diesel from competitor Motorola and plans to take on more fuel from Time & Tide today.

Tibbs cut away the top section to prevent it doing any further damage, and saved the middle section and the sails. The accident occurred in near gale-

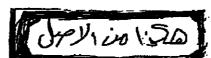
maining it should be possible for force winds and heavy seas, and Starboard tack may have accelerated the fatigue.

All the other yachts have

been checking for similar problems, and third-placed Simon Walker (Toshiba) has found ber. It has taken on 120 gallons some damage. In addition. 3Com has had to refit its forestay since it failed. Global Teamwork is doing the same and has backstay deterioration and a broken strand in the lower starboard shroud. Last night, Heath Insured also reported a



9 6 6 0



BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS Rugby league's transformation has inspired many volumes. Dave Hadfield casts his eye over them

No doubt about the publishing event of the year in Wigan. At the shop there that shifts more rugby league literature than any other in the country, the definitive account of the local club's unforgettable last 15 years is outselling even Soul Sur-vivors: The Wigan Casino Story.

The Best Years of Our Lives (Mainstream, £15.99) was a story aching to be told and Paul Wilson, who chronicled it for papers in the town before graduating to this one, was ide-ally placed to tell it. He does so with great style and insight; so much so that it stands companison with the account of the only comparable feat, Larry Writer's magnificent Never Before, Never Again about the equally dominant St

Read all about it: the really stupid game If Wigan have been the great running story of the last decade even-handed recounting of a tan-

and a half, then the theme of the last year and a half has been Super League. Two books tell another compelling tale from radically different perspectives. Simon Kelner's To Jerusalem

and Back (Macmillan, £14.99) is a heartfelt testament from a league traditionalist which is at its best reflecting on the past rather than reading the runes of the future.

For the blow-by-blow account of how it all happened, read about the equally dominant St. Mike Colman's Super League. The Inside Story (Ironbark,

gled tale, especially considering that the author is a News Ltd iournalist. It was written at halftime in the legal battle, with the Australian Rugby League still ahead on the scoreboard, so an updated edition is being pre-pared. In the meantime, this one

is quite revealing enough.

The Rugby League's one-time archivist, Robert Gate, is another with strong views on events over the last couple of years. His foreword to The

itage have been sold down the river. The book itself is an up-date of his admirable 1984 tome, completely re-illustrated and thoroughly timely in view of the continuing dislocation of the tradition of Ashes series.

Super League also rears its head in my own latest foray into editing and writing XIII Worlds (Mainstream, £14.99), but so does much else. This is less a factual account of rugby league's fortunes around the globe than Struggle for the Ashes II (R E a sniff at the atmosphere of the Gate, £12.99) is a battlecry for game in its various settings. I be-

Edgar's musings on his beloved France alone. Hard core Francophiles might also try to track down Jacques-of-all-trades Their guide to the grounds, the Louis Bonnery's Le Rugby a XIII (Cano & Franck, 200F, about £30). It is expensive at current excharge rates, although not much more than a round of

surprisingly, in French, but it is a veritable treasure-trove. One of the heartening features of the publishing scene

Charlety Stadium, and it is, not

League Publications. The Sin Bin (LLP, £5.95) is amusing enough to qualify as that hardy annual, the ideal stocking-filler. splendidly-titled / Wouldn't Start from Here (LLP, £5) is also well worth having, although the London Broncos' move from The Valley has already rendered

drinks in the environs of the that section out of date. The mighty Australian mag-azine, Rugby League Week, cel-ebrated its quarter century last year and Rugby League Week: 25 Sensational Years (Harper over the last few years has been Sports, £16.50) is probably the

lieve – but then I would – that the vigorous activity of London it is worth buying for Harry League Publications. The Sin events during that period events during that period looked at the time.

Also from Australia, League of a Nation (ABC, £13.50) is a stimulating collection of writings on the game, often from surprising viewpoints. Take this for an opening paragraph, for in-stance: Football [by which the writer, Sydney-style, means rugby league] is stupid. It's really, really stupid. It's nucely stupid. How can I be so sure? Because that's exactly why the people who go to watch football like it. If it was any less stupid they

wouldn't watch it." Discuss.

The indefatigable compilers of Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook had a problem this year: what to do with that best-forgotten, misbegotten final winter season. Their solution has been to produce a slimmer than usual volume to cover the 1996 season (Headline, £16.99) with the magnum opus on the first Super League season to follow in the new

sport

To some extent, the equal-ly tenacious chaps at League Express have beaten them to it. bringing out their Super League 96 (League Publications, £1299), covering the season up to and including the ill-lated-tour of New Zealand, in time for Christmas. It was a rush job -and in places that shows - but a mighty effort all the same.

Faldo opts for military precision

ANDY FARRELL

There is not much doubt what is the focus of Nick Faldo's attention for next year. And in doing everything he can to realise that ambition, he is even making sure his eyes see it the

Asked for his highlight of 1996, the US Masters champion said: "Obviously, winning the US Open." He postscripted his correction with: "That's given the game away."

Faldo has already won three Open championships to go with his three US Masters green jackets and has made no secret of his desire to add the next nost prestigious crown. He will have played next year's US Open venue, Congressional, near Washington, several times

before teeing up on 12 June. The 1997 season for Faldo started last week at his Florida hase at Lake Nona. An intensive week on the practice range with his coach, David Lead- wish I could turn back the clock better, was matched with an and set out on a professional caequally strengous work-out reer with all the knowledge I regime in the gym. He has also have accumulated in 20 years on

army SWAT personnel. Combat golfer, that's me," Faldo said. "Your eyes can be out of alignment but you can do exercises to line them up. It's mainly for putting and it could explain why I was regularly missing putts short left."

day landmark next summer, one'.

James Hickman broke his own

British short course record on the opening day of the Winter Championships in Sheffield yes-

terday. The 20-year-old, who

reached the final of the 200m

in Atlanta, took 0.26sec off his

100m mark in the 25-metre

pool, clocking 53.30 in his heat

io better the time he set in

Gelsenkirchen in February.

Record for Hickman

Faldo has not lost any of his hunger for success. "I pushed hard at 30 for the Open and at 40 I'm still pushing hard for the US Open. I'm not going to sit back. I would hate to think that

I could have tried harder. "That's why I'm brutalising myself in the gym. I'm really working hard and enjoying it. I don't want to get bigger, it's all

After Christmas at home, Faldo starts his season in California before journeying to Australia for the Johnny Walker Classic at the end of January. Then it is the US Tour all the way until after the US Open.

Discovering Open champions of the future is what the Nick Faldo Junior Series will be hoping to do. Promising amateurs of 17 years of age and under from Great Britain and Ireland will play in five regional order of merits to qualify for a grand final at the Forest of Arden.

Faldo, who is initially underwriting the venture with £100.000, said: "Sometimes I een an eye doctor who helps tour. The next best thing is to pass on all that information to the next generation.

"Starting something like this can only be a benefit. Sport is being recognised more as a career. When I told my careers adviser that I wanted to be a golfer, he said only one in 10 thousand Despite an important birth- make it. I said: Okay, I'll be that



Nigel Coupe, on Europe K, rides high in the Christmas Cracker Accumulator event at Olympia yesterday

Whitaker enjoying purple patch

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Olympia

the 200m freestyle final with the fastest time. The Ipswich swimmer, troubled by a back injury sustained in a recent car accident, clocked 2min 00.99sec. Susan Rolph, a double gold medallist at last week's European Short-course Champion-Essex rider, John Renwick, on Roundstreet Charlie.

ships in Germany, will not be fined for her withdrawal even though she will compete for her French club, Clichy, on Sunday. The Amateur Swimming Association has effectively granted Karen Pickering celebrated Rolph dispensation because of her 25th birthday by reaching the death of her grandmother. er and Geoff Billington) that is worth more than £1m to the

John Whitaker gave the Virtual Village team their third win contestant to gain a clear-cut vicof the Olympia Show Jumping Championships yesterday af-ternoon, when he rode Welham tory yesterday when he rode eight year-old Renville to win the to win the P & O Events Christ-Beeton Rumford Christmas Pudmas Cracker Accumulator by a ding Stakes, defeating William Funnell on Comex by 2.63sec. comfortable margin of almost five seconds. He defeated the Fisher bought Renville in the Netherlands four years ago and

Whitaker had won here on Wednesday night with Granso far done everything that has been asked of him. "He's natunusch, a few hours after Nick Skelton (also one of the purrally quick over a fence so you ple-jacketed V.V. team) scored

on Quick Star. They are part of a sponsorship deal (which also includes Michael Whitak-Comex," Fisher said.

with him, but I still didn't realise are held, has suffered a major setback with the news that Silk Cut will no longer be sponsor-

The mare Bowriver Oueen. who won the closing Grand Prix at the Horse of the Year Show James Fisher was another in October, will be Fisher's mount in tomorrow's Volvo World Cup qualifier.

John Whitaker on Welham

and Nick Skelton on Dollar Girl (both with their new Virtual Village prefixes) are bound to start at shorter prices on The Tote. Olympia, celebrating its 25th the bay gelding, who has won about 20 contests this year, has

anniversary, has a total of 19 sponsors and the show (by far the best of the British indoor fixtures) goes from strength to strength. By contrast Hickstead, can expect to do a good time where the major outdoor shows

ing the Derby meeting.

This year BBC television transmitted six hours and 20 minutes of the action from Hickstead, with the Silk Cut. Derby as its principal attraction. It is hoped that lottery money or a new sponsor will plug the gap left by the departing company, whose contribution in-cluded £135,000 in prize-money

for the Derby alone. Joanna Jackson, winner of three gold medals at this year's Paralympic Games, received the British Equestrian Writers' Trophy having been voted equestrian personality of the year. She British equestrian team in Atlanta as well as winning the two individual contests in her grade.

Jackson, a single arm amputee, is helping to run the village post office at Cullompton in Devon for her mother and grandfather, who are both ill. But she took a day off yesterday to come to Olympia and re-

cay to come to Olympia and re-ceive her award.

CLYMPIA SHOW JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS:
P & G Events Christmas Craoker Accommis-ter: 1 Vitual Village Welham U Whasler, GB:
36pts. 41.49sec; 2 Roundstner: Crarke I/ Re-veck, GB: 36.48.43; 2 Dyleno OUG ft, Nichaugis-March, Swil 36, 47.98. Beaton Rumford Christmas Pudding Stalest: 1 Rerulet U Fish-er, GB: Clear, 48.10; 2 Corrier (W Funnel, GB: Clear, 50.73; 3 Lerp Paras Benzo d'Amory IR Pesson, By Olex, 51.78, British Equestrien Whi-ers' awards: BEWA Trophy (equestrien per-aonality of the year): J. Jackson, Vivien Batcheter Trophy (exchanging young rider): E Taylor, Luzia Baddies Trophy (major con-tributor to equestrien sport): C Schofield.

McGahan to leave Leeds

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Hugh McGahan is to leave his

job as football manager at Leeds to return to his hometown of Auckland. McGahan, who was appointed as the right-hand man to the club's coach, Dean Bell,

18 months ago, is to become the marketing manager for Super League in New Zealand. "It has been a tough decision for me to make, but I feel that it is a great opportunity for me to help the game in my native New Zealand," said McGahan, whose partnership with Bell failed to produce the

goods during a first Super League season at Headingley.
"He will be sadly missed by everyone at Headingley, not least by myself," Bell said. "He has been a big support to me during what have been ex-tremely difficult times and his contribution to the club should not be underestimated."

There will be no decision on how the management structure at Leeds will be re-organised until after the departure of Mc-Gahan, a former New Zealand captain, early in the New Year. Also on the move is one of the key men at the Rugby League's headquarters, the

coaching and Academy exec-utive, John Kear. Kear, the man who also from the danger of relegation during a period on loan to them last season, is joining Sheffield Eagles as football ex-

He will link up there with Eagles' new coach, Phil Larder, with whom he has worked at international level. "I have had job offers in the past, but this one was too good to turn down." Kear said. "Phil and I are determined to take the club to the top."

The League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, paid tribute to Kear's work in establishing the Academy as a thriving sector within the game. A decision on Kear's successor is being delayed until the British Amateur Rugby League Association responds to proposals for unification, as this will have a major bearing on the future scope of the job.

The British and French

board members of the Paris club are to meet tomorrow in an attempt to resolve the question of who will run it next season.

Vegas date for Lewis

Oliver McCall was conspicuous by his absence at a news conference in New York on Wednesday to officially announce his World Boxing Council heavyweight title fight with Britain's Lennox Lewis on 7 February in Las Vegas.

McCall was involved in reports of vandalism and disorderly conduct in Nashville, Tennessee, on Sunday, but Lewis's handlers on both sides of the Atlantic, Main Events and London's Panos Eliandes, suspected there could be problems after a New Jersey judge removed Don King's right to promote the fight for extending the date beyond the dead-

Lewis said: "You have to think about McCall's behaviour. Hopefully they can control him enough to be there on 7 February. They were able to control him when he fought in London last time. What's stop-

ping them this time?" The former champion's promoters have thought about a replacement opponent should McCall not make the Las Vegas date for any reason. It is believed that Croatia's European title holder Zeljko Mavrovic is waiting in the wings.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.45 uriess stated
NATIONWIDE POOTRALL LEAGUE
FRIST DIVISION
Southead v Birminghem
SECOND DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION
Crowe v Notts County (7.30)...
Peterbortough v Burnley
Shrwsbury v Walsali
THIED DIVISION
Colchester v Cambridge Utd
Northampton v Hereford CM VALDOHALL CONFERENCE

Nysoury. Jewson Eastern League Premier Divi-sion: Walton v Wroman: HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Division: Dundsky Fith Harps;

Rugby League PRIEMBLY: Battey v Villaneuve (7.30).

Other sports EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia Chempionship (Yensington, London). POOL: Mosconi Cup Nine-Ball Challenge: Europe v USA (Dagamham).

> TODAY'S NUMBER

25,000

The number of pounds that Falkirk FC have been fined for fielding an ineligible player John Clark, in a game against St Mirren earlier this season. They have also been ordered to replay the match.

Athletics

Ethiopian runners will compete in the Bupa County Durham International Cross-country next week after the International Amateur Athletic Federation resolved a cash row. The Ethlopian Athletics Federation had imposed a ban on their ath-letes attending meetings because they wanted a larger cut of appearance fees. Basketbáli

Destand 99 New Jersey 81; Indiana 102 Orlando 95 (o/0; Detroit 112 New York 78; IA Lakers 111 Minwolkes 105; Dewar 95 Sacra-mento 79; Prodrik 114 Washington 107; Sest-tia 105 Portland 102; Golden State 123

Glamorgan have targetted the former Der-byshire fast bowler Frank Griffith as sup-port for their Pakistan Test player Wagar Ibunis, Griffith, 28, was released by Derbyshire at the end of the summe Adam Bacher, a 23-year-old nephew of United Cricket Board of South Africa managing director All Bacher, has been called up for South Africa's first two home Tests against India. He replaces

HONON SQUAD (to tour South Africa and West Indies): S Tendulfer (capt), A Kumble (Mos-capt), M Azhanuddie, P Dharmard, R Drawd, D Gamesh, S Gangluy, D Johnson, S Sabe Kertm, WS Lawren, N Monga, Y Prastod, Y Reju, W Raman, V Rathora, J Streeth. TOUR MATCH (Wangeratte; first day of four); Victoria 354 (G Vimperi 133, D Berry 50; N

MCLIBRI 5-45) TOLER MATCH (Hohart; first day of four)-Palesten 299 (Steind Aindi 80, Mushtaq Ahmed 65; Shaun Young 7-64); Tasmana 73 TX 1. SHEFFELD SHIELD (First day of food): Bide-bance: New South Wales 190 (S Waugh 55; A Bichel 6-56); Queensland 89 for 2.

Football

Hiberian have tailed in a first attempt to bring the Clyde striker Eddle Annand to Easter Road, but their caretaker manager Jocky Scott is ready to increase his offer to land the 23-year-old as he tries to clinch the Hibs Job on a permanent basis. Annand has scored 16 goels this seeson for Clyde. Gross this sessor for cipe.

Crost International Darko Butorovic has signed a four-year contract with the Portuguese champions Porto, a club source said. The club has already paid

SPORTING DIGEST a transfer fee of \$300,000 (£187,000) to Crostia's Hadjuk Split.

Three days after being banned for ax European Cup games for head-butting Porto's Jorge Costa a month ago, the Milan striker George Weah made a pub-ic apology through Fifa. The former Brazil coach, Tele Santana, who has been out of soucer for almost a year because of ill-health, will be the

a year because or in-reasin, while or new coached Brazil at the 1982 and 1986 World Cups, was forced to abandon his job with São Paulo early this year be-cause of health problems.

CALLE Of REAL PROCESSES OF REAL LEAGUE RE-Arranged debet Tue 11 Feb: York v Wal-sal (from 19 Neo), Tue 11 Mar: Chester v Torquey (from 4 Jan). INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (Memana): Brazi 1 (Ronaldo 67) Bosnis C.

Wednesdow's LATE RESULTS: World Cup Group Sh: Matte 0 Spain 3. Coca-Cota Fourth-round replay: Southermon 3 Cota-2 Stockport 2 West Ham 1. FA Carling Pre-mientaling: Sheffield Wednesday 1 Manches-try United 1. Mationwide Football Lengue First Division: West Brom 5 Noveich 1. Sec-ded Division: West Brom 5 Noveich 1. Sec-ded Division: Millward 0 Luton 1. Bell's Scot-rieth Lengue First Division: Algring 0. St. ter United 3. Metionwide Football League Fast Division: West Bron 5 Novich 1. Second Division: Misland O Luton 1. Ber's Scottish League First Division: Airdne 0 St. Johnstone 1. Ber's Scottish League First Division: Airdne 0 St. Johnstone 1. Ber's Scottish League Frender Division: Postponed: Outermane v Celpt. FA Youth Cup second-round replay. Queen's Park Rangers 1. Bristol Rovers 0. Speaking Challenge Cap quanter-final: Morecambe 3 Statyorigh 3 (act). Or Martine League Premier Division: St. Leonards Stamenth 3 Derdord 1. Unibond League Cup thair round: Knowsiey 2 Great Hanvood 2. Uniffain First Division: St. Leonards Stamenth 1. Stockingle 2. Winstone Capacity Control Charletter Division: St. Leonards Stamenth First Division: Capacity Control Charletter Division: St. Leonards Rend League First Division: St. League First Division: St. League First Division: St. League First Division: Postponed: St. Helens v Holker Postponed: St. Helens v Holker Charletter League First Division: St. League Premier Division: Bacteria Division: St. League Premier Division: Bacteria Division: Bacteria Division: Bacteria Division: Bacteria Division: Bacteria Division: Bacteria Division: Bacteria Division: Westham O Rotherson 1; York 2 Shrewsbury 1. League Cap Group Two: Barnstey 2 Scanborungh O Avon Insurance Countination First Division: O Todanno Division: Westham O Rotherson 1. Proc. Division: Portsmouth 2; Briston 4 Proc. Park Rangers 5; Brighton 2 Portsmouth 2; Bristol Rowers O Todannom 2

fet Yste Town!; Norwich 1 Chelsen 2; Swensen 1 Charlton 2. Langue of Walter Caersus 0 Conneh's Quey 2; Cernees Bay 1 Rhyl 1; Conwy O Porthradog 2; Ebel Valle 4: Cernerthen 0; Hojwel 1 Cernardon 4; Welstycod 4 Briton Feny O. Dutch Langue: Feyencod 1 Rote JC Kerlorde O; Fortuna Sittand 2: NAC Brede 2. Italians Cup Quarter-fizzal econol leg: Internazionale 1 Aventus 1 (egg. 4-1), Asian Cup Semi-fitziale (Also Disable); United Arab Emiratus 1 Kwest O; Saudi Arabia 0 km 0 (Saudi Arabia win 4-3 on pens).

Australia will host the Presidents Cup between the United States and the Rest of the World in 1998, the Australasian PGA Tour said yesterday. The venue for the tournament has yet to be chosen. ice hockey

NAL: Buffalo 5 Tempa Bey 3; NY Rengers 4 Los Angeles 0; Delles, 3 Chicago 2 to/0; Colorado 4 Edmonton 4 (o/0), New Jersey 2 Vancouver 1. Demok 3 Calgary 3 (o/0). **Motor racing**

trailen teem Mineral have signed Japan-ese driver Ulyo Katayama for the 1997 seeson. Katayama, 33, who had been with Britain's Tyrrell team since 1993, takes up his new role on 7 January. Rugby Union

Richard Turner, 28, the former All Black back-rower, has signed for Milan. Black bock-rower, has signed for Milan. EMERGING WALES SQUAD (* USA Eagles, Rodoxy Pareda, Newport J. Jamany: M Tay-lor (Swansas), M Back (Swansas), M Lands (Bridgerd), G Exaris (Lianelli), N Devies (Lanels: capt), N Bochyar (Lianelli), S Wyett (Portypidd), J Lawis (Potopidd), P John Por-rypodd), Lianels (Cardiff), S Conter (Newport), H Harries (Hafequard), S Shaw (Bridgerd), N Eyros (Portypidd), S John (Lianelli), S Leati-les (Swansas), N Willems (Newth), L Mustos (Cardiff), L Jones (Cardiff), G Quinnell (Fich-mond), P Arnold (Swansas), A Bibbs (Lianelli), N Thomas (Bath), G Wyett (Lianelli), S Moore

Skiing Atherto Tomba, the triple Olympic cham-pion, has pulled out of his home World Cup gant shilom meeting in liay on Sur-day. He was injured during training on a gasier in October and feats a recurrence on the demanding Alta Badla course. Snooker

Paul Hunter has been awarded the second and final wild card to challenge the world's top 16 for the Berson and Hedges LEADING PROFESSIONAL RANGONES (British unless stated): 1.S. Hendry, 2.J. Riggins, 3.R.O.Sulaum, 4.M. J. Williams, 5.K. Doherty, 6.J. Parrott, 7.N. Bond, 8.A. Robedoux (Carl), 9.P. Ebdon, 10.A. McManus.

Steve Paternan, 31, from Derby, won the bronze medal in the 115kg class at the ameter World Championships in Tolgo. Paternan beat wreathers from France, Russia, Puerto Rico, Austria and Televan before before the Income and Taiwan before losing to a Japanese op-ponent in the semi-final, in the team

event, Great Britain beat Bulgaria but lost to Mongolia in the second round.

A Hamburg court yesterday dismissed a civil suit filed by Moruca Seles against the German Tennis Federation over her 1993 stabbing. Seles was selsting £9.3 million in damages for lost moorne af-ter the attack, blaming the German fed-eration for lack of security. The court dismissed the case and ordered Seles to pay costs. Seles said the attack, which

AUSTRIA

CANADA

Laike Lo

FRANCE

ITALY

SWITZERLAND

(INSTED STATES

sidelined her for 27 months, had given rise to psychological problems.

Jane Wood, the British No 7 from Mid-diesex, beat Emily Bond of Glouces-tershire 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the

tershire 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the BTMA Christmas tournament at Queen's Club, London, yesterday. ROLEX ORANGE BOWL CHAMPHONSHIPS (flori-de): Boys under-18 singles third round M Les (ISB) by A Seron (Sm) 7-8 6-4. Boys under-18 singles from throate! Formain (Tally) by 5 Do-son (ISB) 6-2 6-2. M Leseno (Cot by 5) Sherwood (ISB) 6-3 4-8 6-4. With under-18 singles as soond rounds. Cotacth (ISB) by 3 Chouchus (ISB 7-8 6-4)

Ares Last Ler Upp Open Saow cm cm

Excellent conditions up top 100% 14.12 110 160 kdyto Great show on upper runs 95% 14.12 30 150 Cold/sunny

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Living with a legacy

Phil Shaw looks at Frank Clark's

attempt to follow Clough, page 26

Football

CLIVE WHITE

Stuart Pearce, the former England captain, was last night offered the thankless task of

trying to rescue Nottingham

Forest from their perilous po-

sition at the foot of the Pre-miership table. Following the

resignation of Frank Clark late

the previous evening, the 34-year-old Forest skipper has

been given 24 hours to decide

whether he will accept the role

of caretaker manager. No one

expects him to refuse.

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE

Zimbabwe 376

England 48-1

reports from Bulawayo

One of the features of this tour

has been the coach David

Lloyd's remorseless search for the positive aspects of Eng-

land's play. As this has so far cen-

tred on the sub-atomic, a session

here, an over there, England's coach would have needed some-

thing akin to an electron mi-

croscope to find anything good

about yesterday's rain short-

ened day, especially after Andy

Flower's century has made Zim-

babwe's position in this first

Test a virtually impregnable one.

It was a resolute performance from the elder Flower, who with

the help of a useful tail, took Zim-

babwe's total to 376. A score that

brought differing responses from

the rival camps, with Lloyd feeling it was: "A bonus and man-

ageable on a smashing batting

"A reasonable enough total to put

England under pressure, with the

leggic [Paul Strang] beginning to

do things as the rough on the

On such a slow playing sur-

fac e, however, neither view can

be totally discounted, although

England's is by far the more op-

timistic considering their recent

batting form and the fact that

Once again there appeared

little in it for the seamers, and

not a great deal more for Eng-

land's two spinners, as Zim-

habwe unhurriedly added to

their overnight score. What

turn there was, came from

bowler's footholes and Flower

spent a gritty 59 minutes in the

batting form and the fact that they will have to bat last on a also played some fine aggressive

pitch already taking spin, albeit shots off the spinners and Croft,

nineties, as Phil Tufnell probed as he chipped a slower full-toss and sifted the rough outside from Chris Silverwood to mid-on. Africa.

itch," while Flower felt it to be:

Whitaker's purple patch

Genevieve Murphy reports on show

cision to go. The success he

brought to the club, upon suc-

ceeding Brian Clough as man-ager three and a half years ago

itself an unenviable task - was

beyond the wildest dreams of most rational Forest supporters

but it has dissolved this season

against a background of im-

prudent spending by Clark and

a takeover battle which has

rumbled on and on, leaving him

With charcoal shaded thun-

derelouds building dramatical-

ly, Heath Streak played-on to Mullally, while Tufnell, at last

settling into a rhythm, ac-

counted for Flower, who, in attempting a deft sweep to leg,

gloved the ball up high enough

for Alec Stewart to complete a

fine diving catch. Nick Knight-

similarly smartly pouched Hen-ry Olonga at silly point a few

As the air filled with the dis-

tinctive smell of rain peculiar to the drier parts of Africa, Eng-land began their innings in fad-

ing light, a handicap made up

for by the absence of Eddo

Brandes, Zimbabwe's mercur-

ial swing bowler, who had gone

over on his ankle the day before

While seam prevailed, Eng-land suffered few alarms but

when the home side brought on

a second Strang, Paul, for the

first the seamer Bryan, he immediately got his wrist-spinners

to grip. With the home side des-

perate for a wicket before the

rain set in, Strang – normally a

looping leg-spinner - pushed

one through to catch Atherton

back on his crease, unable to get

most indisputable of lbws but it

gave the home side the fillip

they had wanted just a ball be-

fore tea. As Atherton trudged

off to the sole applause of a

huge thunderclap, rain began to

fall as both play and England's

riposte were suspended for the

England and Pakistan have

added their support to the idea

of a world championship of

Test cricket, a blueprint for

which was unveiled by Matthew

Engel, the editor of Wisden, in

October and drew immediate praise from Ali Bacher, the

managing director of the Unit-

ed Cricket Board of South

rest of the day.

It was not the perhaps the

balls later.

jumping's festive event, page 27

board's decision to offer the job

to Pearce, who has often ex-

pressed a desire to go into

management when his playing

days are over. Irving Korn, the

chairman, said that Clark's as-

sistant, Alan Hill, would assume

board and I'm certain the players will get a lift from it," Clark

said. "If he decides to accept I'm

sure he'll get things going. I can't believe any Nottingham Forest

fans will be disappointed by the

England ground

down by Flower

the left-hander's off-stump.

Flower's vigilance eventually.

ended soon after lunch after he

reverse swept the Middlesex spinner for three to bring up his

hundred: a daring wristy shot made almost regulation by the

squash and hockey upbringing that is the norm for most white

It was the 28-year-old

Flower's third Test century, and

one he claimed gave him an ex-tra frisson, coming as it did

against England, where he spent

last summer coaching at Epsom

College and playing for East-bourne in the Sussex League.

Unless a call to county cricket

intervenes, he will be taking up

summer residency in the Parks

and the challenge of coaching

Oxford University. That estab-

lishment is not renowned for its

tolerance of modern vulgarities

Robert Croft excepted - have bowled generally, it was difficult

to find a batsman under stress

in any position, and for the most

part. Zimbabwe's tail-enders

looked as untroubled as Flower.

As in the first two sessions on

Wednesday, England were far

too short, particularly to Paul Strang, who gave an Alan Knott-like exhibition of upper

cuts over the slips, as he and

Flower added 79 for the seventh

who opened the day's pro-

ceedings with Darren Gough,

was twice whacked for four as

he strayed from Wednesday's

land looked totally bereft of

ideas and only a smart catch by

Phil Tufnell over his head.

brought Strang's cameo to an end

It was hereabouts that Eng-

impeccable length.

Strang, who has a Test cen-

Mind you the way England -

such as the reverse sweep.

They may, however, have

It's a wise decision by the

administrative duties.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD No. 3175. Friday 20 December

talive specimen (o) Moist quality found in some French clarets, perhaps? (8) Sort of round taking the form of a conference, we

Auction to include represen-

10 Refusal to join American intelligence (4) 11 Singer about to be seen in front of posh car (8) 12 Had meal offered by hotel -में इ क्यांग्रह्मी (ही)

13 Fictional work brought back trum Oberammergau (4) 15 Offers of superior accommodation evoking rude gasp.

perhaps (8) 18 Irritating sore needing time to improve? (8)

23 Medicinal preparation - unwisely mention having opened tube? (8) Principal river in Germany (4)

27 Mean to have a single chestnut? (3-5) 28 Violent pangs occasioned by wrestling moves, we're told (6) Scene of contest will be in Square, naturally (5) Crime concealed by atten-

> Situation in which we re about to take flight? (9, 6) Ceremonies offered by Eng-

dant in minister's residence (9)

Prepare to draw turther inspi-

ration from old well? (6)

This Morth Pile Resolved is a manager with the Res Chine

terial in Strine requiring clarification (6) lish divine in angelic fashion? The Bird originally found in expression of contempt (4) 7 Material from Northern Ire-21 Workforce required by a He-Lind? No. French (5) Switzerland (5) Lind? No. French (5)

24 Nobody's education started after twelve (2-3) C Published by Newspaper Pathishing Pf C. I Canada Square, Carasty Whart, Lorden E14 5DL, and praised at Marter Colour Print, St.

8 Not exactly sitting tenants (9)

14 Line of armoured cars? (4-5)

to Pilot's instrument you need

to modify, inserting date (9) 17 Untruthful person having

20 Sheet bearing advertising ma-

right to join Catholic church

(45 min, 2 bells, 1 four) H K Olonga c Knight b Tufneti 2 min, 4 balts) Extras (854,w3,nb13). Total (535 mis, 127,5 overs) . Pall (cost: 7-331 (P Stang), 8-372 (Stang), 9-376 (A Phwert, 10-376 (Clongs). Screen; Walley 22-4-68-1 (hb1 w2) (5-1-19-03-1-11-04-09-02-1-4-05-1-11-0-2-0-2-0-2-11; Googh 26-4-87-1 Hark week trade to m Hatoric Newspapers, 01988 840070.

Clark himself backed the mixed feelings about Clark's de- - a transfer which he did his best to resist - and it was ironic that that player's brace of goals in the 4-2 defeat of Forest at Anfield on Tuesday should precipitate Clark's resignation. which was reluctantly accepted at an emergency board meeting on Wednesday night. It left the cently chose to quit as manager club three points adrift at the of Blackburn Rovers for the bottom of the table without a

league win since the opening

FIRST TEST: Atherton falls early as his tourists make a damp start to their pursuit of Zimbabwe's imposing total

Pearce poised to take Forest job

financially hamstrung. Much of Clark's troubles stemmed from the sale of Stan Collymore to Liverpool for said, describing his decision to £8.5m in the summer of last year go as the lowest point in his

ter for the club." His decision echoed the sentiments of Ray Harford, who re-

day of the season 16 games ago a Premier League record. "You could say the Liverpool game was the final straw," Clark

signs in that display. I didn't want to hang around until they [the players] lost faith in me. That would have been a disas-

Lancastrians' fortunes have revived - to Forest's cost. "I'd just about run out of things to do, so I've done the ultimate," Clark said. "I'm resigning in the hope that it will

career. "I saw certain warning I didn't want to bang on until they [the new owners] came in. There could have been another five or six games played by then and it might have been too late. It's vital now that the team gets a couple of wins. If they do it will transform the picture."

Both rival consortiums had offered their public support good of the club, since when the for Clark but rumours to the contrary about his position had persisted, making Clark uneasy. Only this week he said that he felt like a turkey with Christmas approaching; everyone was readying themselves for a good time save for the turkey. Clark

leaves with his dignity and reputation intact and his name has already been put forward as a front-runner for the Manchester City job. He said he had received some "speculative offers" and was keen to get back

into management.

As for Pearce, few young men could go into management with greater backing. A bigger crowd favourite it is hard to imagine, be it at club or international level. "If he doesn't accept we'll think again," Korn said. "But I believe that Stuart, being the type of person he is, will accept the challenge."

Batistuta for £13m ALAN NIXON

> Manchester United are being offered the Argentine World Cup player Gabriel Batistura for a little matter of £13m. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has been sounded out by agents working for the Fiorentina forward, who headed the Scrie A scoring charts last

United

offered

season, and United will monitor his progress. The Fevenoord chairman, Jorien van den Herik, is to contact Celtic today to discuss "the conditions" for buying Pierre van Hooijdonk. The 27year-old Dutch striker's rift with the club has apparently

season. Batistuta wants to come to England at the end of this

reached breaking point. Two more French players was to join Arsenal. The full-back Jerome Bonnissel wants to leave the Spanish club Deportivo La Coruña to work with Arsene

Alan Shearer, David Seaman Gary Neville, Peter Schmeichel and Steve McManaman have been selected for a squad representing Europe to play Africa in Lisbon next month in a match to promote antiracism. The squad is selected by Germany's coach Berti Vogts and the former Dutch coach. Rinus Michels.

Wenger, while the international midfielder Claude Makelélé is unhappy at Nantes, claiming Arsenal and Chelsea have both expressed an interest. Southampton have suffered a

major blow with news that their defender Jason Dodd must undergo a knee operation to repair a damaged cartilage. The former England Under-21 internation al has been suffering knee troir ble for the past two months. West Bromwich Albion are set to strengthen their injury-hit

squad by signing the Notts County central defender Shaun

Murphy for £500.000. Bolton Wanderers vesterday completed the signing of the ex-perionced Sheffield Wednesday midfield player. John Sheridan. They have agreed to pay £180,000 for the Republic of Ireland international and Wednesday will receive a further £25,000 if Bolton are promoted. Juninho is doubtful for Middlesbrough's match at Blackburn tomorrow. The Brazilian has not fully recovered from an ankle injury he received at Aston Villa three weeks ago. Emerson will definitely play after coming

through a reserve game. Newcastle's new home on the moor, page 6

Michael Atherton, the tourists' captain, falls leg-before to the leg-spinner Paul Strang

Zimbabwe's fears over bowling are unfounded

tinued their innings.

As it was, the bowling was at

least as bad as it had been on

the first morning. Darren

Gough was all over the place and not that fast either. One ball

was short and wide and square

cut, then followed a half-volley

which was driven and after that came a couple the batsman had no need to play a stroke at.

Alan Mullally was dreadful.

In his first four overs the bats-

men only had to play nine balls

out of the 24. Chris Silver-wood's line was better but he

never looked like getting the ball past the bat and the Zimbab-

weans who had gone into the

match a trifle apprehensive at what England's faster bowlers

might do to them, could scarce-

It was the most depressing

the inescapable conclusion that

the seam bowlers are simply not

ly believe their luck.

out of their system.

HENRY BLOFELD England's awful bowling on the first morning meant that it was always going to be a struggle for them to get back into this match, but at least it was a per-

formance the bowlers had got

But, far from it, for their

bowling on the second morning

was every bit as bad and had ensured that England are going to have an enormous fight to save this first Test match against At the team meeting the night before the match one thers that the Zimbabwean batting was minutely examined. Strengths and weaknesses were identified and a plan of campaign was devised for each of

the opposing batsmen. The bowlers were left in no doubt as to what they should do. Yet, in the event, they were, until Robert Croft began to performance which led one to bowl so well on the first afternoon, all of them unable to pro-

duce. After the first day's play up to it.

Second day, Zimbabwe won toss ZIMBABWE - First Ionings Overnight: 256 for 6) A Flower c Stewart b Tulhell..... 365 min, 331 bells, 12 fours! P A Strang c. Turned to Saverwood (108 mm, 69 balls, 7 fours) H H Streak b Mullally ... (70 min, 60 balls, 2 kurs) C Strang not out

Bulawayo scoreboard (rb5, w1) (63-13-1 40-16-0 5-1-16-0 40-15-0 20-10-0 5-0-17-0; Steerwood 18-5-63-3 (rb5) (4-0-25-0 6-1-25-1-3-3-0-15-1-13-1; Count 44-15-77-3 (5-1-16-0 11-4-2-1 12-6-7-2 3-18-0 3-3-0 5-0-14-0; Turnell 26-5-4-76-2 (rb3) 080 40190 82190 40180

7.5.2-12-2).
Progress: First day: 60: 71 min, 16.3 overs. 100: 11.4 min, 27.4 overs. Lunch: 109-1 (G Flower 34, Campbell 70) 30 overs. 150: 177 min, 42.5 overs. 200: 244 min, 60 overs. Van: 200-3. (Houghton 33, A Flower 31) 60 overs. New bed taten after 84 overs at 242-5. 250: 339 min, 95 overs. Close: 250-6 (A Flower 53, P Storing 0) 92 overs. Second day: 300: 419 min, 106.4 overs. Lunch: 337-7 (A Flower 94, Street, 3) 123 overs. 350: 507 min, 131 overs. Inviting close 1.30pm. Campbell's 50: 74 min, 72 balls, 9 fours.

ond they will surely have had another meeting to plot the course of events when Zimbabwe contherms the second over of the day, did the second over of the day, did not bowl as well as he had done on Wednesday. At the other end, Phil Tufnell did not, to start with, pitch the ball up enough. He should have been trying to bring the batsmen on to the front foot to drive.

> Zimbabwean leg spinner. Paul Strang, was always going to be the danger man for England and Mike Atherton, of all people, made a bad mistake. He played back and not forward to a leg spinner who was pushing the ball through and bowling to a full length and he was trapped leg-before. One

> had hoped that India's Anil Kumble had taught that lesson to England's batsmen. Atherton's dismissal was a serious psychological blow and it looks increasingly as if the re-sult of this match lies in Strang's spinning fingers.

(57 min, 43 bels, 2 fours) Extres (nb3) ... Total (for 1, 57 min, 13.5 ow Fait: 1-48 (Atherton). To bat: †A J Stewar, N Himselr, G P Thorpe, J P Cawley, R D B Croft, D Gough, A D Mullath, C E W Streewood, P C R Tutnell. Boufing: Streek 8-2-11-0 (nb2): B Streng 5-0-21-0; P Streng 1.5-0-8-1; Olonge 1-0-10-0 (nb1) (one spell each).

Umpleas: R.S Dunne and I O Re replay analyse: R.B Tiffin, Mate Harumant Sagn.

ENGLAND - First innings

The last ball of the day before rain brought things to a halt was another sad reflection. The to 60% on their national and international

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